

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, SHAWWAL 13, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

2,000 activists detained in Rabat

RABAT (AP) — Police detained about 2,000 Islamic fundamentalists who staged a peaceful demonstration outside a court house in the center of Rabat Tuesday. A Western reporter on the scene said fundamentalists taken into custody were being beaten by police officers armed with batons and clubs. The demonstration was held in the main square in front of the railway station and court of appeal where the leaders of the outlawed Adl Wa Ihsan fundamentalist movement were due to appear. It was the largest demonstration by Islamic fundamentalists ever staged in the center of Rabat, which was paralyzed for several hours and motor traffic halted. The demonstrators began gathering during the morning as several hundred police officers, city police and riot police in navy-blue jump suits made them sit down on flower beds running down the center of the main avenue. When they started chanting slogans, the security forces including numerous men in civilian clothes started picking them up and dragging them off into a courtyard by the square's corner.

Princess Basma back from Indonesia

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, president of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, returned to Amman Tuesday at the end of an official visit to Indonesia. During the visit, the Princess visited several social institutions and obtained first-hand information on Indonesian women's experience and their contribution to the national development.

S. Arabia: Iranian pilgrims welcome

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia said Tuesday it would welcome Iranians to next month's annual pilgrimage to the holy cities of Mecca and Medina and remained willing to negotiate over the issue. "We followed with great interest the Iranian pilgrims' visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran," said a spokesman for the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Islamic Affairs and Endowments. Minister Sheikh Abdul Wahab Abdul Wasie said, "Saudi Arabia welcomes Iranians to perform this year's annual pilgrimage according to the Islamic law and under its limited quota." Sheikh Abdul Wahab added.

Missing lawyer surfaces in France

PARIS (R) — A French lawyer reported missing in Beirut by Lebanese police is safe in Marseille. Lawyer Marcel Paul Coccardi, 43, told Reuters he had left Beirut last week several days ahead of schedule. "Police in Beirut, said Monday, they were searching for Coccardi after he disappeared from his hotel there, April 30," Coccardi said. He said his disappearance was probably due to the fact that because of his early return to France he missed an appointment with a senior officer of the Lebanese police, who was a personal friend.

Sudan pensions off senior officers

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's military junta has pensioned off 13 generals and brigadiers in a move said by the government's spokesman to be unrelated to last month's failed coup attempt. Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported from Khartoum Monday night that the officers included paratrooper commander Major-General Salah Al Dawy and the head of the military academy, Admiral Al. Tigran Ali Saleh. The chairman of the armed forces daily newspaper, Major-General Mohammed Osman Malek, was also among those pensioned off, MENA said.

UNRWA welcomes extra U.S. aid

VIENNA (Agencies) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees has expressed its appreciation for an additional \$7 million contribution to UNRWA announced by the United States government on Friday. The contribution, authorized by President Bush from a special refugee emergency fund, brings to \$37 million the total U.S. contribution to UNRWA for 1990. It will go towards UNRWA's regular budget, which finance education, health, relief and social services for more than two million Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Kohl wants military status agreed

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl rejected Tuesday a Soviet suggestion that Germany could be united before the tricky problem of its military alliance was cleared up. Kohl said Bonn wanted the external aspects of unification — such as a united Germany's membership of NATO — settled by the autumn in talks between East and West Germany and the four wartime victors. "The suggestion of de-coupling (external and internal aspects of unification) corresponds in no way to my ideas. It would be fatal," he said. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Saturday solutions to unity problems could be delayed for a few years.

Firing at royal yacht is most serious, ominous and inexplicable, palace says

Aqaba incident holds potential of dangerous confrontation - Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Palace spokesman Tuesday confirmed reports that an Israeli naval boat in the Gulf of Aqaba fired into the pathway of His Majesty King Hussein's yacht late last month while the King was standing on deck. "This is not the first incident to occur in the gulf involving the royal yacht, although it is the first to include firing in its immediate vicinity," the spokesman said in a statement carried by the Associated Press. The spokesman said that the incident took place on April 27 and not as previously reported on April 28. He said Jordan complained to Western countries over the incident and warned that "diplomatic action was taken to draw attention to its extreme seriousness, for it held all potential of developing into a most serious confrontation with untold results." The spokesman described the incident as "both ominous and inexplicable."

According to the spokesman, the incident took place Friday 27, at 4:00 p.m. when King Hussein — accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Hamzah and Princess Iman — was planning to go on a fishing trip. The spokesman said the U.S.-built, 54-foot Bertram "Sports Fisherman" left the marina outside the royal residence in Aqaba and was escorted by a Bertram 31 boat carrying security officers. The spokesman said the King was heading towards Pharaoh's Island in Egyptian territory, near the Egyptian resort of Taba. "The intention was to proceed to a point in Jordanian waters just beyond Yamani point before turning westwards towards Pharaoh's Island in Egyptian territory... then fishing south of the island before returning to Aqaba," the spokesman said. He said the King was standing on deck while the boat was still in Jordanian waters and noticed an Israeli naval boat approaching. "When about a quarter of a mile away, the Israeli boat commenced firing from its main guns in a southeasterly direction, where water sports marked the fall of some of the shots," the spokesman said. He said the King ordered the accompanying security boat to return to Jordanian shores and the King's yacht "turned a few degrees eastwards leaving the Israeli boat further to its starboard as it passed it."

The spokesman said that the King "had decided against turning westwards towards Egypt, since the Israeli boat was still firing sporadically into what would have been the yacht's path." Later, the royal yacht slowed to trolling speed and fishing lines were deployed, when the Israeli boat started chasing the royal yacht and stopped few metres away from it. "It then increased speed cut-

Iraq possesses 'nuclear triggers,' president says

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — President Saddam Hussein said Tuesday Iraq had acquired a sample of a "nuclear electronic device" Washington had said could be used as a trigger for nuclear weapons and was now making its own. "The United States and Britain said in March that officials at London's Heathrow airport had seized a shipment of the top secret, U.S. capacitors bound for Iraq," he said. "Only five days after the U.S. announcement about the so-called nuclear triggers, our fighters at the (Ministry of Industry and) Military Industrialisation succeeded in producing similar capacitors to those so-called triggers," President Hussein told Iraqi political leaders. "Only five days after the Americans said they (seized them) our young men in the military industry managed to produce two condensers," he told.

about 2,000 Arab delegates meeting in Baghdad in solidarity rally with Iraq. President Hussein displayed the devices, which he said was similar to one produced in the United States which he also showed to the participants. "If the British or the Americans want to import some of these devices which are labelled made in Iraq they can negotiate a deal with the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialisation," he announced. He also disclosed that Iraq was able to import some of the same devices produced by the American firm before British customs officers seized a batch at London's Heathrow airport. "Can this detonate a nuclear bomb?" he asked. "I haven't seen a nuclear bomb... but this is one of the capacitors they talked about, of which they did not capture all."

Campaign continues to fight ban on male hairstylists despite official denials

Sana Atiyeh and Nuzween Murad
Jordan Times reporters

AMMAN — The banning of male hairstylists from working with female clients continued to draw angry reactions from the association of owners of beauty parlours and other quarters despite Ministry of Interior denials that such a ban was adopted in the first place. A copy of the decision banning the issuance of licenses and employment to male hairstylists as of 21 April 1990 was made available to the Jordan Times yesterday. "The management and employees of female beauty salons to be licensed as of this date will be limited to women," the decision, signed by Minister of Interior Salem Al-Masadeh, stipulated. Although ministry sources refused all reports of the ban, the Jordan Times confirmed Tuesday that the decision was sent to the head of the Public Security Department (PSD) in the form of an addendum to an earlier condition set by the ministry governing the ownership, employment and status of premises occupied by hairstylists. "We have only issued instructions governing the work of the beauty parlours and they do not infringe on any person's right to work in this field," a senior Interior Ministry official told the Jordan Times Tuesday. The president of the hairstylists' association, Anis Naber, vowed to fight the ministry decision "by contacting all the concerned parties before taking it to law courts if it continues to infringe on the rights of professionals in this field."

Heated debate over 'politics'

The decision has generated a heated debate over the last few days over the legal and constitutional legitimacy of such a move. A legal precedent in the governorate of Irbid in 1980 contravenes the adoption of such a measure and calls for the differentiation between legal and religious aspects of the issue. In one case heard by the supreme court then, an Irbid Municipality decision to ban men from owning or working at women's beauty parlours was overturned since "there is nothing in the Islamic law which would prohibit licensing men to open beauty parlours for women."

Crown Prince renews warning

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has called on the international community, notably the big powers, as well as the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict to renew efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East. The Crown Prince also warned that Israeli expansionism will only fuel the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. "It is clear that the present climate in international relations is conducive to the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations," the Crown Prince wrote in an article which appeared in the May 6 issue of the Los Angeles Times. "This conference would be an appropriate forum in which to deal with the problem once other methods have been exhausted."

"Whatever happens," the Crown Prince wrote, "the world should not simply wait until the Arabs and the Israelis are ready to make suitable compromises. They must be induced to do so." In the article, under the headline "Israel must act while there is time for peace," the Crown Prince also renewed an earlier warning that the existing opportunity for a genuinely lasting peace in the region was diminishing daily. "Peace presumes that the other party undergoes a comparable transformation of attitudes, values and outlook," the Crown Prince wrote. "This is not the case in the Middle East. Israel, under Yitzhak Shamir, seems intent on squandering the opportunity by refusing to accept the exchange of land for peace."

Prince Abdullah ends visit; Badran, Klibi hold talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi Tuesday discussed efforts under way to convene an extraordinary Arab summit and the outcome of the discussions held here by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz, who left for Cairo earlier Monday. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, quoted Badran as reaffirming to Klibi Jordan's support for the proposed conference, "which would help the Arabs reach consensus on means to confront the common dangers."

The prime minister briefed the Arab League chief on Jordan's efforts, in cooperation with Saudi Arabia, to convene the summit, Petra said. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem attended the meeting. Klibi arrived here from Damascus, where he held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who was quoted as saying that Syria would not attend a summit if it was held in Baghdad and calling for an alternative venue. In comments to reporters after seeing off Prince Abdullah to Cairo, Badran said the proposed summit would go ahead later this month. "We believe we have to skip the routine procedures and pave the way for Arab leaders to sit together and reach positive results which would be for the benefit of the Arab Nation," he said. "Iraq is a good Arab country with a clear national inclination and has always played an active role in serving Arab causes," he said.

S. Arabia will continue aid to Jordan — Badran

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saudi Arabia has displayed positive understanding of Jordan's economic situation and will continue to provide financial assistance to the Kingdom, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said here Tuesday. "In true commitment to bolster solidarity among Arab states and to further promote Jordanian-Saudi ties, Riyadh will very soon provide Jordan with financial aid," the prime minister announced following the departure of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz after a two-day visit to Jordan. The prime minister was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the Saudi prince's talks here covered bilateral relations and pan-Arab affairs in addition to convening an Arab summit meeting. "We discussed Jordan's economic issue within the framework of our unique bilateral relations and there was an understanding from the Saudi crown prince, a great deal of positive understanding," Badran said.

for convening a special Arab summit in Baghdad later this month to discuss all the challenges facing the Arab Nation." Badran said a flurry of Saudi diplomatic activity was aimed at "uniting the Arab fold and convincing Arab leaders to attend this summit." "We believe that what is currently taking place on the Arab arena is dangerous and requires Arab leaders to convene an emergency meeting soon," Badran said. He explained that "Israeli expansionist policies has alarmed Arab leaders of a growing threat... to Arab national security." Badran said he has been informed that Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will attend the Baghdad summit, which he said should be convened before the May 30 summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The premier noted that the Arab conference will have an open agenda that will discuss broad range of "Arab national security issues."

Saudi crown prince in Cairo in push to clear way for summit

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt and Saudi Arabia have embarked on delicate diplomacy to clear the way to hold an Arab summit in Baghdad in the face of Syrian opposition. Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah arrived in Cairo Tuesday to join President Hosni Mubarak a few hours after Syrian President Hafez Al Assad refused to attend a summit in Baghdad and suggested a neutral venue be fixed at a preliminary meeting of foreign ministers. Just before Prince Abdullah arrived, Egypt sent a private message to Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The PLO's summit proposal is in question mainly because it specified the meeting should be in Baghdad. Prince Abdullah flew to Cairo from Amman. His tour also has taken him to Damascus and Baghdad. He conferred with Syrian and Iraqi leaders on healing the 11-year rift between them. Because of it, the choice of Baghdad for the summit emerged as the main hurdle to convening it as the PLO requested prior to a U.S.-Soviet summit opening May 30 in Washington.

Tunis to find an alternative venue for the summit. The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said Assad made the remarks Monday night in a meeting with Chadi Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League, who flew to Damascus Sunday in an apparent effort to persuade Assad to be more flexible. The agency quoted Assad as saying he would only attend a summit "after consultations which will end with a comprehensive agreement on the topics to be discussed at the summit and on the venue of the summit." SANA said Assad "explained during the discussions with Mr. Klibi that Syria's view on this subject is that the summit conference be held in a place to which nobody objects."

Baltic republics push collision with Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union's three Baltic republics moved further along a collision course with Moscow Tuesday by maintaining their independence drive in the face of Kremlin pressure. In Lithuania, trailblazer of the thrust to independence in the Baltics, a senior Soviet officer said the army might have to intervene if tension escalated. Lieutenant-Colonel Valery Shorupov, deputy commander of the Soviet army garrison in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, urged President Mikhail Gorbachev to use his new executive powers and run the republic from the Kremlin. "Soldiers do not want to interfere in the life of the republic. But an escalation of events could force the army to be pulled into the whirlpool," Shorupov told a Vilnius news conference. The rebel Lithuanian govern-

Beirut carnage continues

BEIRUT (R) — "The city is burning," the cry of a resident rose above the thunder of exploding shells and rockets Tuesday as rival forces fought with tank, artillery and rockets for control of Lebanon's Christian heartland. More than 10 people were killed and 20 wounded, including five children. Among the dead was army Colonel Francois Zein, head of the Lebanese military academy of General Michel Aoun, whose 15,000 mainly Christian troops are locked in battle with militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) for a 14th week. "Shells are raining down non-stop on nearly every quarter of east Beirut. The city is lighting up from the glow of the exploding shells... it is burning," cried resident Soughit Helou.

Musawi fears hostage may be killed if Iranians are dead

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A senior Shi'ite Muslim fundamentalist voiced fears Tuesday that one of the Western hostages in Lebanon could be killed by his kidnappers if four missing Iranians are found to have been slain by Christian militiamen.

"If the death of the four Iranians is ascertained, that will definitely affect the hostage issue. One of the kidnappers might react by murdering a hostage," said Hussein Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal faction based in the Bekaa Valley of East Lebanon.

"I don't have any concrete information on that. But they've done it before. What's there to stop them from doing it again?" he told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from his headquarters in the ancient town of Baalbek.

His remarks were seen as an effort to pressure Washington to make a conciliatory gesture toward Iran and the kidnappers following last month's release of two Americans.

The four Iranians were seized by right-wing Lebanese Forces militiamen north of Beirut in July 1982.

Iran has repeatedly called for their release. But the four men are widely believed to have been killed either in civil war shelling or by their captors.

They are Ahmad Motevasseleian, commander of the contingent of Iranian Revolutionary Guards based in the Bekaa Valley of East Lebanon, Charge d'Affaires Mohsen Mousavi, Kazem Akhavan Araf, a photographer for Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, and their Iranian driver, Mohammad Taghi Rastegar Moqadam.

Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Geagea said in August 1988 that after he took over the militia in 1986 he found no trace of the missing men and blamed his predecessor, Elie Hobeika, for their disappearance and apparent murder.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said in October 1989: "If you say they are not alive, at least you can give us back their bodies or show us their graves."

Musawi's pro-Syrian faction is part of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, or Party of God. That is believed to be the parent organisation of Shi'ite extremists holding most of the 16 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

They are six Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Italian and an Irishman.

Musawi is the reputed mentor of the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, which holds American professors Alan Steen and Jesse Turner.

The group freed U.S. educator Robert Pollitt, 55, April 22 after 39 months in captivity.

The move was followed by the April 30 release of another American, Frank Reed, 57, after being held hostage for 42 months by a group calling itself the Organisation of Islamic Dawn.

Following the releases, the kidnappers and Iranian officials called on U.S. President George Bush to reciprocate with a conciliatory gesture.

They asked that the fate of the

missing Iranians be determined. Bush has said the United States could try to help learn their fate.

Musawi said he believes no more hostages will be freed before the Israelis free some 400 Lebanese and Palestinians held by them and their militia allies in South Lebanon. That is another key demand made by the kidnappers and Iran.

"If the kidnappers' mind is sound and their religion is sound, they will not free any more hostages," Musawi said. "And I think they won't."

"If the Americans want to solve the hostage issue, they should solve the problem of the Muslims and the oppressed held by Israel and its surrogates," he added.

Israel has said it is not opposed to a swap in principle, but stressed that an exchange should include three Israeli servicemen captured in Lebanon in 1986 and believed held by radical Shi'ites linked to Hizbollah.

Bush has declared that the United States would have no objection to Israel freeing prisoners.

But he said Washington will make no move of its own until all six American hostages still held in Lebanon have been freed unconditionally.

"The Americans have reacted to the release like cowboys, like real cowboys," Musawi said. "Was it really time for them to open their mouths and talk?"

He was referring to a U.S. State Department report issued a day after Reed's release that listed Iran and Syria as states supporting terrorism even as Bush was publicly thanking them for their help.

Israel Tuesday again insisted that any deal to release Western

hostages held by Lebanese militants should include freedom for all missing Israeli servicemen.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said the statement was issued in response to two senior U.S. senators, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Robert Dole.

They had urged the Jewish state to free its Arab "hostages" as demanded by Iran and its Lebanese allies in the Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah (Party of God).

A government statement insisted Israel would only consider freeing the Arabs if it received six Israeli servicemen who went missing in Lebanon in return.

Israel believes Hizbollah holds three of them — an airman shot down in 1986 and two infantrymen ambushed in Israel's self-declared Lebanon "security zone" earlier that year.

It thinks another group of three, a tank crew missing after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, were captured by Syria or Syrian-backed Palestinian fighters.

"Israel again declares its readiness to release Lebanese detainees it holds in exchange for the return of all its (Israeli) prisoners and those missing in action."

"(Israel) will certainly be ready to take part and to make its contribution to any move that will bring about a release of all the hostages, on the condition that as part of this its prisoners and those missing will be returned."

General Antoine Lahd, head of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, ruled out exchanging his 300 Arab prisoners for the Western hostages unless SLA members and the six missing Israelis were also freed.

Darawshe fed up with racist slanders from Israeli MPs

TEL AVIV (R) — An Arab member of Israel's parliament said Tuesday he wanted jail terms for right-wingers using the name "Mohammad" as a racist slur.

Abdul Wahab Darawshe, head of the Arab Democratic Party, told Reuters right-wing politicians call him Mohammad instead of his real name as an ethnic slur.

He said he would seek legislation to provide six-month jail terms for people using ethnic names in a racist way. He said Mohammad was a typical Arab name and its deliberate use indicated bigotry.

"It is like calling Jews in Europe Moshe during World War II. It is a racist way of addressing people," he said.

Darawshe said right-wing Trade and Industry Minister Moshe Nissim had called him and other Arab members of the Knesset (parliament) Mohammad or Ahmad.

Other Israeli politicians angered Darawshe and other Arab deputies last month when they criticised Labour Party leader Shimon Peres for seeking Arab backing for a new government, a claim they also labelled as racist.

U.S. voices concern about Israeli arms with drug lords

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has told Israel it is concerned about a weapons shipment from the Jewish state that ended up in the hands of Colombian drug traffickers, the state department has said.

The 500 weapons and ammunition, worth some \$200,000, were recovered by Colombian government officials after Colombian drug lord Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha was killed by police in December 1989.

The arms were ostensibly sold by Israel to opponents of former Panamanian strongman Manuel Noriega trying to organise an invasion force on the Caribbean island of Antigua.

"We do not know how these weapons ended up in the hands of the Rodriguez Gacha organisation," said a spokesman.

... since Israel was the source of the arms, our embassy in Tel Aviv has raised our concern about these arms with the government of Israel," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Monday.

"We understand the Israeli government is cooperating in the investigation," he said.

A senior Israeli army reserves officer, Yair Klein, is under investigation in Israel on suspicion of training Colombian drug gangs.

"We are clearly concerned when government-licensed weapons end up in the hands of narcotics-trafficking organisations. We urge governments involved to aggressively investigate the incident and take appropriate judicial action," Boucher said.

Israeli court orders full disclosure of coalition deals

TEL AVIV (R) — The supreme court, responding to appeals from Israelis disgusted by the politicians' intrigues, ruled Tuesday that political parties must make public all coalition agreements before forming a government.

The ruling followed growing public demands for reform of a political system which leaves the balance of power with small ultra-religious parties and individual defectors who extort a high price for their support.

"This is a great day for democracy and for the protest movement," said Eli Shraga, an electoral reform campaigner on hunger strike outside parliament who petitioned the supreme court.

"The court established... that the public has a right to know what is in the coalition agreements — what is done with its property and its money. I have no doubt that when things will be in the open, they will be done more carefully," he said.

Both major Israeli parties, the center-left Labour and the right-

wing Likud, have made secret deals with minor factions and defectors promising cabinet jobs, parliamentary seats, funding and policy concessions in a bid to form a government.

One maverick group, led by Economics Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, even demanded that Likud post a bank guarantee underwriting its promises of cabinet posts and safe seats for its members.

The coalition deals have caused widespread public disgust and brought tens of thousands of Israelis on to the streets to demonstrate for a change in the strict proportional representation system, under which 15 parties have seats in the 120-member parliament.

Caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Likud meanwhile pursued efforts to form a narrow Likud-led coalition Tuesday, with aides telling religious parties they saw no prospect of reviving the former "national unity" government with Labour.

Yemens to speed up unity declaration to forestall problems

SANAA (R) — North and South Yemen have decided to speed up their planned merger to forestall any attempts to undermine the creation of the Arabian peninsula's most populous country, diplomats and officials in the North say.

They said a formal announcement of the new Yemen Republic would be made about six months ahead of schedule, after the two parliaments meet to ratify its draft constitution during the last week of this month.

Initial plans called for the birth of the new state to be declared on Nov. 30 after a popular vote on the constitution at the end of a transition period following ratification.

"The unity process is being speeded up to avoid the possibility of outside interference, mainly through manipulation of religious forces inside the country," said one member of parliament who wished to remain anonymous.

North Yemeni Information Minister Hassan Al Lauzi would not confirm a widely quoted date of May 26 but told Reuters: "I do not discount declaring the Yemeni Republic within two or three weeks."

Yemeni officials from both states have warned of threats to the merger that would end more than 300 years of division between the countries, which have fought fierce border wars in their more recent past.

South Yemen's minister of state for union affairs, Rashid Mohammad Thabit, said in an interview earlier this year that "hostile internal forces" with outside links were threatening the merger.

North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh told a rally last month that those who were "trying to plant thorns on the road to Yemeni unity under the pretext of Islam or through strange and radical ideas" would fail.

No fingers have been pointed publicly. Privately, officials say they believe neighbouring Saudi Arabia viewed the creation of a unified Yemeni state along its southern border with some apprehension.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd publicly supported the union moves after a visit to Riyadh by Saleh in February.

But diplomats and officials in Sanaa say the kingdom is uncomfortable with idea of a united Yemen enjoying a more liberal political system and a population of some 13 million.

Saudi Arabia also has about 13 million residents but Yemenis are a significant proportion of the total.

The draft constitution guarantees a multi-party system. Socialist South Yemen is now ruled by a single party and the North has no

political parties.

"I suspect the main reason for putting the unity announcement where it is expected now is to forestall any difficulties which might arise," one senior diplomat said.

"If there is any attempt by any of Yemen's neighbours to cause difficulties then the quicker they get into a strong position the less likely it is to happen."

Saudi Arabia has strong links with fiercely independent tribes living on the disputed borders with the two Yemens.

Reports last month of clashes with tribesmen in the northern border town of Saadiah have been discounted by officials and foreign diplomats in Sanaa but underline the tension preceding the unity announcement.

The tribes have clashed periodically with North Yemeni authorities on property and trading issues. Diplomats say that although they are happy to accept Saudi handouts, the northern tribes are not opposed to the government as such and ultimately would remain staunch Yemenis.

"These tribes have reservations but more about the content of unity rather than the act of unity," one diplomat said.

"The major groups will most likely go with the system and try to retain the maximum interest they can within it."

A widely respected North Yemeni religious leader living in Saudi Arabia said in December that the unity constitution could undermine Islam but he subsequently said he did not oppose the merger, diplomats said.

They said Muslim fundamentalists in North Yemen object to article three of the new constitution, which says Islam will be "the main source of legislation" rather than "the source of legislation" as in the present constitution.

There are also some groups in South Yemen who view reintegration as a betrayal of the Socialist system adopted when it gained independence from Britain in 1967.

Once a staunch proponent of Marxism, the country has pulled back from its pro-Moscow leftist dogma and has been liberalising its economic and political institutions in preparation for the merger.

Diplomats said that under revised unity plans, transitional provisions in the draft constitution would be dropped.

The six-month transition period would be extended to at least two years to allow ample time for ministries to merge, political parties to form, and existing parliaments to complete their terms, they said.

Elections would be held at the end of that period.

Benjedid: Islam and politics should not mix

ALGERI (R) — President Chadli Benjedid, whose government is under fire from Islamic fundamentalists, has plunged into a debate raging in Algeria over relations between Islam and politics by saying the two should not mix.

In his first public remarks since tens of thousands of Muslim fundamentalists marched on his palace last month ahead of the first free elections in June, Benjedid attacked what he called an Islam of charlatanism and demagoguery.

"Islam, which is a sacred religion, should not be mixed with politics and the manoeuvres of parties so as not to diminish its value," he told Islamic scholars attending a conference on the fu-

ture of Islam Monday.

An escalating war of words pits the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) against Benjedid's ruling National Liberation Front (FLN), the two main contestants in the June 12 local elections.

FLN officials have stepped up attacks on the FIS in recent weeks, denouncing its control of major urban mosques and portraying it as an extremist deviation from the Islam traditionally practised in Algeria.

A four-day conference organised by the Lend-based Centre for Studies on the Future of Islam essentially endorsed the FLN's view of a moderate, democratic Islam, and Chadli did not hide his satisfaction.

FIS spokesman Abbas Madani, who was not invited, dismissed the conference as "drawing room Islam," Algerian Radio said.

Benjedid, 61, launched the country on a difficult road to multi-party democracy after October 1988 youth riots.

He has announced free elections for municipal and provincial councils on June 12 but resisted to dissolve parliament, still entirely FLN and not due for reelection until 1992.

The fundamentalists, drawing on economic discontent and widespread dissatisfaction with 27 years of one-party rule, showed unprecedented boldness by marching into Benjedid's front

yard to demand parliamentary elections within three months.

Benjedid Monday warned the fundamentalists and other opponents to respect the rule of democracy. "Neither the Algerian people nor its system will accept that power be taken from above or by exploiting the social and economic difficulties of the country," he said.

The FLN launched a campaign last month to denounce the use of Friday sermons in the mosques for political ends.

But the fiery young FIS preacher Ali Benhadj told worshippers in the capital's Kouba Mosque last Friday, "we are in the mosques like the fish are in the sea."

Palestinians blocked from building as Jewish housing rises

By Jack Redden
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Palestinians who are routinely refused permission to build new houses in occupied Arab Jerusalem are watching bitterly while workers erect thousands of homes for newly arrived Soviet Jews.

"When you talk about law, it is different for Jews than for Palestinians," said Mohammad Masri, chairman of the Community Association in the neighbourhood of Beit Hanina.

The circle of Jewish housing around the Arab areas of East Jerusalem is being drawn tighter. Israel allotted funds this month to build 7,500 units in Jerusalem for Soviet immigrants, most on land near Beit Hanina.

Amir Chesdin, city adviser on Arab affairs, says some

30,000 housing units have been built for Jews since Israeli troops occupied Arab East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East war.

The city says it does not have figures for Arab housing but a glance at a landscape crowded with fresh Israeli construction supports the Palestinian view that few new houses belong to Arabs.

Officially the reason for the discrepancy is legal — the absence of zoning plans that would allow the city to give building permits.

After more than two decades of debate, and a whitening down of the number of houses that would be permitted, a plan appeared last year for part of East Jerusalem. Arabs say it is so restrictive it will have no effect.

Most vacant land Palestinians could use is in the north

of the city, including Beit Hanina. But after 23 years of waiting, there is still no sign of a zoning plan emerging from the Israeli government for that area.

"For the new Jewish quarters it makes two weeks and there is a cornerstone," Masri told Reuters. "The main point is political."

Even replacing existing houses is difficult. Residents are told to destroy their present homes and move to a hotel before building new ones.

Arabs are allowed only two or three floors, while they watch eight-storey buildings rise in neighbouring Jewish areas.

With a population of some 150,000 Palestinians and a high birthrate, residents frequently turn to building without permits.

With a population of some 150,000 Palestinians and a high birthrate, residents frequently turn to building without permits.

City authorities have often ignored illegal building, or contented themselves with periodic fines. But the city announced plans recently to flatten an Arab shop and four homes housing 42 people.

"It's not just you in a box so you can't expand on your own land," said Ziad Darwazeh, director of the Beit Hanina Association.

The housing debate is inseparable from the wider Israeli-Palestinian struggle. Israelis claim Jerusalem their "united capital." Arabs consider the eastern half to be the capital of the state of Palestine.

Few countries recognise Israel's annexation of the Arab areas, on the grounds that the status of the city remains to be negotiated, a position that in-

furates Israeli leaders.

While the goal of more liberal Jews such as Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek is to keep the present proportion of Arabs in the city frozen at about 28 per cent of the population, those on the right of Israeli politics hope Palestinians will just leave.

"To flee from here — no way," said Darwazeh. "We will stay."

He is probably right, if for no other reason than residents have few places to go. Emigration to other countries is ex-cited by new births and thousands of Palestinians slipping into the city without Israeli permission.

But the restrictions are squeezing the standard of living.

The housing shortage has helped push rents to levels far out of line with incomes, de-

caying older houses cannot be replaced and increasing numbers of people live in illegal houses under the threat of a demolition order.

Yusef Khoury, a U.S.-educated consulting engineer and head of the Holy Land Housing Society, estimates a pent-up demand among Jerusalem Arabs for 20,000 homes.

His Vatican-supported society has been seeking approval to build a 32-unit apartment block for eight years. His own house now has an Israeli army centre on one side and construction for the new Jewish community of Pisgat Ze'ev East on the other.

"Unless you house people, something is going to happen Khoury told Reuters. "There is going to be growing desperation, like what has happened in Gaza and refugee camps."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:00	Koran
15:30	Programme review
15:45	Children's programme
17:20	Educational programme
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo news message
18:20	Local programme
18:30	News in Arabic
18:35	Arabic series
21:30	Arabic programme
22:00	News in Arabic
22:40	Play
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	La Vallée en Carton
18:40	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Louise and Disorder
21:10	Horoscope
21:30	Riding in English
22:20	Allice to Nowhere
PRAYER TIMES	
04:13	Fajr
05:29	Sunrise (Samra) Dhuhr
12:32	Dhuhr
16:12	'Asr
19:25	Maghreb
20:52	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah, Tel. 510740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 623246	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654922	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Khamasi weather conditions will prevail, making it hot and dusty. Winds will be easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Min./max. temp. 12/29	
Aqaba 18/35	
Dorsets 12/31	
Jordan Valley 15/34	
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 27, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
ADAM: Dr. Ahmad Al-Nasour 639934	
Dr. Nabil Al-Maridi 615338	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Horani 895332	
Dr. Teyour Al-Saidi 77636	
Firas Pharmacy 661912	
Ferdous pharmacy 778336	
Al-Aziza pharmacy 637035	
Nairook pharmacy 626672	
Al-Salam pharmacy 636730	
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	
Shamsi pharmacy 637660	
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department 661111	
Civil Defence Immediate 600341	
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777	
Fire Brigade 891228	
Blood Bank 775121	
Highway Police 843402	
Traffic Police 896390	
Public Security Department 600321	
Hotel Complaints 608000	
Price Complaints 661176	
Water and Sewerage 897467	

Narcotics bureau to aid Jordan fight drugs

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) has decided to provide assistance to Jordan to help its efforts in fighting narcotics and to stem drug trafficking in the Arab world, according to Brigadier Hussein Al Qaisi, director of the Amman-based Arab Bureau for Narcotics (ABN).

Normally the INCB provides assistance to countries with drug addiction to help them overcome this problem. Qaisi said in a lecture on the drug problems of the Arab World.

Addressing an audience at the Royal Cultural Centre Qaisi said that recently a charitable society had been created in Jordan to help combat drugs and assist the concerned official authorities in the fight against this danger.

The Vienna-based INCB, established in 1961, supervises the implementation of the drug control treaties by governments and helps nations with drug problems.

According to Qaisi, a total of 669,743 kilograms of various types of drugs were seized in the Arab World between 1984 and 1988.

He said drug traffickers were mostly apprehended trying to smuggle hashish, opium and heroin, but also 53 million pills of dangerous drugs were seized during the same period according to statistics available to the bureau.

He said that a total 75,146 people involved in the drug trafficking business were apprehended in the course of the drug busting operations in the Arab World alone between 1984 and 1988.

"A total of \$330 billion worth of drugs were sold around the world in 1988, half of which in the United States," Qaisi said.

Referring to the situation in the occupied Arab territories, Qaisi said that the Israeli authorities were easing restrictions in matters related to drug trafficking and drug addiction in the Arab region, while enforcing laws against the Israelis addicts.

Municipality quits plans for downtown Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Greater Amman Municipality has abandoned a JD 4 million plan for appropriating land and real estate in downtown Amman and demolishing buildings in several districts to ease traffic congestion in the capital, according to Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat.

"We have taken the decision after reviewing the municipality's financial position and have opted to postpone such major project for the time being," the mayor said following a visit to Ruseifa where he inspected a garbage dumping site.

"At present, the municipality will appropriate real estate near the old market place at the cost of JD 134,000 to help ease traffic around that particular area in Amman," Suheimat added.

But he said that the municipality is inclined to delay taking action in this regard too until a solution for the problem of merchants, who will be affected by the decision, has been found.

The mayor was referring to an earlier decision taken by the municipal council to pull down a shopping centre and subsequent merchants' complaints.

The mayor spoke to reporters following his visit to the Ruseifa garbage dump and meeting with officials at the site.

"A special committee to study the problem of bad smell which caused the outcry of the local residents is continuing its work on this matter and the municipality will abide by the committee's decision in this affair," Suheimat said.

Local citizens had been complaining about the smell from the dumping ground and just before Eid Al Fitr they staged a sit-in at the site, blocking entrances and preventing trucks from reaching the grounds.

According to the mayor, a new technique is being adopted now at a site of 700 dunams, with garbage teams covering the garbage and spraying insecticides on a regular basis.

The mayor said the committee would investigate the causes of the smell and report on the matter before any further action can be taken.

Jordan-Sweden trade ties to become stronger

By Ziyad Al Shilleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Sweden will help Jordan set up a commercial studies centre for the benefit of Jordanian exporters and will provide experts to work out training programmes and transfer Swedish expertise to the Kingdom, according to Amman Chamber of Industry President Khaldoun Abu Hassan.

Also a delegation representing the Amman Chamber of Industry will pay a visit to Sweden in six months' time to hold talks with officials and importers and pave the way for exporting Jordan's national products to Sweden's markets, Abu Hassan announced at a press conference following the conclusion of a two-day seminar on marketing Jordanian products in Sweden held at Amman Chamber of Industry.

"The delegation to visit Sweden will agree with importers there on types of products and procedures for delving into the

Swedish markets," said Abu Hassan.

"Jordanian exporters have already had contacts with Swedish markets over the marketing of certain types of Jordanian goods and the Swedish side expressed desire to import Jordan's agricultural products, clothing, and pharmaceuticals and industrial equipment," Abu Hassan announced.

Abu Hassan said the seminar was an important step towards opening the Swedish markets for Jordanian exporters.

Delegates attending the seminar included representatives of four major Swedish organisations specialising in importing products from developing nations, the Federation of Swedish Commerce and Trade and the Swedish Trade Bank which finances imports," Abu Hassan said.

He said 120 Jordanian businessmen and representatives of major Jordanian industrial and agricultural firms who took part in the seminar displayed great interest in exporting products to

Sweden.

Abu Hassan said the Amman Chamber of Industry will seek to organise a Jordanian trade exhibition in Stockholm next year especially since Swedish organisations have offered facilities for holding such an exhibition.

Following the conclusion of the meetings, Sweden's ambassador to Jordan Lars Lonnback told the Jordan Times that one of the Swedish experts had left for the occupied Arab lands to hold contacts with Palestinian exporters on the prospect of selling products to Sweden.

"Palestine will in the future become a trade partner of Sweden and whatever agreements might be reached with Jordan could be applied to Palestine as well," the ambassador said.

Lonnback also said that Swedish-Jordanian tourist ties are important since visits to Jordan's archaeological sites and industrial centres can help promote bilateral cooperation.



Jordanian artists display work

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by five young Jordanian artists opened May 8 at the Abdal Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery.

The exhibition includes silkscreen monoprints by Ghada Dahdaleh, sandstone sculptures by Larissa Najjar, watercolours and collages by Mohammed Samara (above), china inks by Rula

Shukairy and gouaches and inks by Adnan Yahya. The gallery opens from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday. The show will run until June 6.

The Shoman Foundation Gallery is located on the fifth floor of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank building in Shmeqani.

Spanish official visits Jordan, calls on Israel to talk peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — Spain calls on Israel to respond favourably to peace initiatives and urges it to help give momentum to the peace process in the Middle East, according to a senior Spanish official here Tuesday.

Fernando Perpina, secretary-general of the Spanish Foreign Ministry made the statement upon his arrival here for a two-day visit for talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and other senior officials.

"Spain and the European Community are concerned about the latest developments in the

Middle East especially in view of the Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine and the obstacles placed in the path of peaceful solutions," said Perpina in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"The European Community's Madrid declaration made clear the community's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East problem," the Spanish official said.

"The declaration called for an international Middle East peace conference which will result in the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people including their right to self-determination," Perpina added.

He said that the Palestine Li-

beration Organisation (PLO) should be a full partner in any international peace efforts and Israel should respond to the calls for peace.

"Spain condemns any human rights violations against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories," Perpina said.

He added that the European Community attaches special importance to its ties with Jordan in a view of the Kingdom's role in promoting the cause of peace.

He said his visit to Jordan was in the course of efforts to bolster Spanish-Jordanian cooperation in political, developmental and tourism fields.

NMI president promises better health services

Doctors rally behind NMI

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Seventy doctors representing about 1,000 doctors delegated by the Ministry of Health to work at the National Medical Institution (NMI) hospitals decided at the end of a meeting to send a cable to His Majesty King Hussein asking for support and revival of the institution. The doctors said a just system should be used to avoid the negative aspects which would result if the NMI were dissolved.

Press reports had said that the NMI, which started operations in July 1988 when all hospitals operated by the Ministry of Health, the Armed Forces and the Jordanian universities came under its direct control, would soon be dissolved.

In the meeting which was held to discuss the future of NMI President of the Jordan Doctors Association Mamdouh Al Abbadi affirmed the association's keenness to improve the level of health services in Jordan. He affirmed the association's determination to unify health services and provide them to citizens all over the Kingdom.

In reference to the Cabinet's decision to refer the NMI law to the Lower House of Parliament to decide whether to keep it,

adjust it or cancel it, Abbadi said that dissolving the NMI does not serve doctors working at the institution nor citizens benefitting from its services.

Abbadi said NMI suffered mismanagement and it should be given the chance to redeem itself.

Dr. Azmi Sharaiheh of Al Bashir Hospital said: "We are facing a new situation which creates confusion for us, since we were working in the Ministry of Health hospitals before being delegated to work at the NMI hospitals."

Sharaiheh called the public sector doctors to support the association's stand "to make our point of view reach the Lower House of Parliament and the public opinion."

He also called members of Parliament to meet hospital doctors in Maan, Karak and other cities to hear their opinions and suggested forming a follow up committee to be headed by Abbadi and which will represent all former Health Ministry hospitals.

Dr. Mahmoud Al Awad of Al Zarqa Hospital said the NMI law had given a comprehensive perspective and it was a perfect law made imperfect by those who supervised its implementation.

Other doctors speaking at the meeting called for unifying stands

and asking the general assembly of Jordan Doctors Association to meet soon to counter the situation.

They also asked for close cooperation with the Jordanian dentists, pharmacists and nurses associations.

They also demanded that the delegated doctors, who form about 60 per cent of the doctors working at the NMI, have a role in managing NMI in the future. They denounced the discriminating policy between them and doctors working at Al Hussein Medical Centre and the University of Jordan Hospital, which they said, operate under the umbrella of the NMI.

At the conclusion of their meeting they decided to send cables to His Majesty King Hussein, the prime minister, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, chairman of the health committees of the two Houses and other concerned authorities.

They also decided to form a committee comprising of a doctor at each hospital to contact deputies in the Kingdom's governorates and districts to explain their perspective and gain support for preserving the NMI. The pharmacists and the nurses associations to gain support for keeping the NMI.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Greek president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable to the Greek President Constantine Karamanlis, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his election as President of Greece. The King voiced hope that the existing cooperation and relations would be further enhanced, and that both leaderships would work together to ensure the freedom of worship in Jerusalem for followers of all faiths.

Queen opens costumes exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday opened the Jordanian costumes exhibition, organised by Philadelphia Lions Club to raise funds for charitable work. The items on display at the exhibition being held at the Jordan International Exhibition, were designed by Rabab Odeh and Abia Azer, both from Jordan. The exhibition includes silver jewellery, embroideries, traditional costumes, and modern designs for traditional dresses.

Building materials exhibition to open

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, a five-day exhibition of construction and building materials organised by the Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation will be held Wednesday at the Amman International Exhibition. Taking part in the exhibition will be 62 companies, in addition to the Housing Corporation, the Urban Development Department, the Royal Scientific Society and the Jordan Electricity Authority.

Zarqa municipality cancels loans

AMMAN (Petra) — Zarqa municipal committee cancelled two loans worth JD 700,000, including JD 100,000 for the central vegetable market, JD 300,000 for the construction of parking lots and JD 300,000 for the construction of pavements.

CAEU to hold meeting in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The committee of the permanent representatives of Arab member states in the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) will hold a meeting Wednesday at CAEU general secretariat in Amman. The committee will discuss the agenda of the 53rd ordinary session for the ministerial council of CAEU which will convene in Cairo June 7. Of the most important topics on the agenda will be the secretary-general's report which deals with international economic developments, particularly efforts in Europe to establish a unified European economy and the Arab reactions to such changes represented in holding Arab economic groupings. Participants in the meeting will start arriving in Amman as of Tuesday.

Syrian delegation visits Health Ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — A Syrian delegation of officials from the Ministry of Health's Drug Industries Department Tuesday visited the Health Ministry and the Pharmaceutical and Drug Industries Department where they were briefed on the establishment and development of drug industries in Jordan. The delegation members also met with the ministry's Secretary-general Adnan Abbas and exchanged views with him on drug industries in Jordan.

Red Crescent officials returns

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Standing Committee for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, who is also president of the Jordanian National Red Crescent Society, Ahmad Abu Qoura Tuesday voiced hope that a new international organisation, other than the International Committee for the Red Cross would be established in the occupied Arab territories to force Israel to stick to the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention on the

protection of civilian population. Upon arriving in Amman from Geneva, where he chaired the meetings of the Standing Committee last Tuesday, Abu Qoura called on the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly, and other international organisations to support the creation of an international body in the occupied territories to alleviate the sufferings of Arab citizens.

Arab Youth Forum to meet Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — The general assembly of the Arab Youth Forum will discuss in a meeting to be held next Friday a recommendation by the forum's board of trustees concerning the acceptance of the Jordanian Forum Humanism members as working members at the Arab Youth Forum. The assembly will also discuss authorising the board of trustees to adjust the basic system, provided that the adjustment be approved by the absolute majority of those eligible to vote at the general assembly.

Meeting reviews Shouneh water situation

NORTH SHOUNEH (Petra) — Water situation in North Shouneh district was the subject of discussion at a meeting held at the governorate Tuesday. The meeting was chaired by Irbid governor Jawdat Al Shouh who called on director of Irbid Water Department to immediately draw up a programme for distribution of water to the various parts of the district. The meeting was attended by the district governor Khalaf Mahasneh and Nader Dheirat, member of the Lower House of Parliament for North Shouneh, in addition to the governorate's Water Department director.

Trade centre joins world panel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mohammad Asfour, chairman of the founding members' committee of Amman World Trade Center Corp. declared that the World Trade Center Association's board meeting held in Marseille on April 25, 1990, approved membership of Amman International Trade Centre as regular member. The founding members of Amman World Trade Center are: Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce; Amman Chamber of Industry; Jordan Commercial Centers Corporation; Jordan Industrial Estate Corporation; Jordan Trade Association; Jordan Technology Group.

JUST final exams last between May 12-19

AMMAN (J.T.) — Department of Admission and Registration in the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) announced the final exam schedule for this semester. Exams will start on Saturday 12-May-1990 and end Saturday 19-May-1990. Students at JUST will not have any conflicts in their exams and will take at most two exams in a day. The exam schedule was prepared in the University Computer Center and distributed to the students.

New names given to hold luxury wings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan abounds with tourist sites and all towns and villages are rich with archaeological treasures which attract tourists from around the world. As part of its constant promotion, campaigns to acquaint tourists with these areas, Hotel Jordan Inter-continental general management has decided to name the hotel's luxury wings after the archaeological places in the Kingdom. The following names were given to the hotel's different wings each of which has been provided with portraits of the respective archaeological sites: Third floor — Ajloun Wing and Al Azraq Wing; Fourth floor — Al Shobak Wing and Aqaba Wing; Fifth floor — Al Karak Wing; Sixth floor — Madaba Wing and Petra Wing; Seventh floor — Amman Wing; Eighth floor — Royal Wing.

Fertiliser producers end panel, stress need for increased sales

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Federation of Chemical Fertiliser Producers (AFCEP) ended a meeting in Amman Tuesday by announcing measures to promote the sale of fertilisers produced in the Arab World to benefit farming projects.

The federation's Secretary-General Dr. Mamoun Youssef Abu Khader said in a statement at the final session that the AFCEP will immediately embark on a programme of cooperation with the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) and with the Arab ministries of agriculture and research centres for the sake of increasing the sale of fertilisers that would help produce larger volumes of crops and ensure food security for the Arab World.

"The participants reviewed several working papers dealing with the production and marketing of fertilisers in Arab states and modern methods in planning and managing chemical fertiliser plants, which could upgrade production and increase benefits," said Abu Khader.

"The questions of cooperation among Arab firms and the exchange of their expertise in fertiliser production and the manufacture of spare parts for their respective machinery and equipment were discussed by the participants during the session," Abu Khader added.

The next federation meeting, he said, will be held either in Libya or Kuwait under the slogan: Research and development in the fertilisers industry.

The Arab Potash Company (APC) and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) have prepared a programme for the delegations to visit the two companies in southern Jordan Tuesday and Wednesday.

Preparations are underway for holding the Jordanian industries fair which will be opened officially in Tunis, May 25, the Kingdom's independence day.

About 120 Jordanian firms will take part in the ten-day fair, according to director of the Jordanian Trade Centre in Tunis Bashir Khasawneh. He said commodities worth \$2 million will be displayed at the fair.

This year's fair, he said, is distinguished for diversity of commodities which represent various industrial sectors in Jordan. He said the items on display will include engineering and electrical appliances, food supplies, clothes, leather, chemical and traditional industries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

- EXHIBITIONS**
- ★ Art exhibition by Houria Al Iraqi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - ★ Exhibition of Jordanian national heritage at the Amman International Community College.
 - ★ Exhibition of traditional industries and handicrafts displaying rugs, knit-wear, traditional costumes and brass works at Madaba Resthouse.
 - ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Jordanian artists at Abdal Hamid Shoman Foundation.

- CONCERT**
- ★ 'Ud (Arab lute) recital by Adel Salameh at the British Council at 7:00 p.m. (entrance free).

- DIALOGUE**
- ★ Open dialogue with Moroccan writer Jari Mohammed at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

Heart Day race postponed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Heart Day Race, which was scheduled to be held Friday under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, was postponed until June, according to organising committee sources. The sources attributed the postponement decision to another event, which will be held on the same day, Friday May 11 MAP (Medical Aid for Palestinians) march will kick off Friday morning.

'Aqaba incident most serious'

(Continued from page 1)

Israel Television reported Monday that an Israeli navy boat came within 100 metres of the yacht and members of the crew took pictures of the Monarch.

It said the Israeli patrol boat also fired its two 20-millimetre guns as part of a "weapons check" when the King's craft was one kilometre from the Israeli vessel, it said.

Israel's military command issued a statement Friday denying media reports that the boat fired

at the royal yacht as it sailed in the international waters. It said some shots, part of a routine weapons check, were fired while the Monarch's craft was in the vicinity, and that the shots were aimed in another direction.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said last week that the U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Brown, has expressed deep concern to the Israeli government over the matter. Brown was told the Israelis have taken steps to avoid another such incident, he said.

Baltic republics push collision

(Continued from page 1)

a law passed by the Soviet parliament last month.

Gorbachev has repeatedly denounced Lithuania's proclamation of immediate independence from Moscow.

He has also denounced the Estonians' more measured approach and is reported to have said the same about Latvia, holding out the prospect of punitive action.

All three republics are preparing for official ceremonies Wednesday to mark the 45th

anniversary of the Nazi surrender — despite official objections in both Vilnius and Tallinn, capital of Estonia.

Estonian deputies voted by 73 to 14 with two abstentions to change their republic's name to republic of Estonia from the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic.

After deciding to restore the pre-war state symbols to official use, the independent Estonian black, blue and white flag was run up outside the parliament building.

Iraq has 'nuclear triggers'

(Continued from page 1)

patriotism. So how can an honest and patriotic man retract from such a course?" he said.

"Anyone who says that he is independent in his country should check that with his scientific and technical development, and this applies especially to the Arabs," he said.

United Nations inspectors said Tuesday that they had found no evidence that Iraq was diverting material from its nuclear energy programme to military use.

Official of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors had carried out routine safeguard inspections of Iraq's nuclear facilities in early April and informed Baghdad of its findings last week.

"Based upon the data collected between March 1989 and April 1990 the conclusion was reached that all material under safeguards was accounted for," the IAEA said. It said it had issued the statement at the request of Iraqi authorities.

The row over the capacitors sparked fears in Baghdad that Israel might stage a raid similar to its 1981 attack that destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor near the capital.

President Hussein warned that if the Israelis attacked Iraq again, he would retaliate with binary chemical weapons.

The president accused the major Western powers of having tried to prevent Iraq acquiring modern technology to improve its military potential.

Referring to the Arab confrontation with Israel, he said the struggle would be a long one.

But he added: "I tell them we are confident that the result of the battle will be victory for the Arab Nation against its enemies and the defeat of those enemies."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MARMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 679141-4, 684311, 684366
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

When will the Intifada wake them up?

WHILE the Arab leaders are bickering about where and when to hold their summit, the intensity of the Palestinian Intifada accelerates to new dimensions. The latest Israeli curfew on more than 120,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip has yet to make an impact on the Arab leaders who do not seem to be sufficiently perturbed by the brutal events occurring daily in the occupied territories. Nor have the reports about the fallen Palestinians succeeded in adding a sense of urgency to the Arab deliberations about the venue and timing of an Arab summit. It is unconscionable that the Arab capitals have become so careless about what goes on around them whether in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or anywhere else for that matter. Arab history will certainly not glorify those who act indifferently to the dangers and challenges posed at the footsteps of the Arab Nation. Nor would the Arabs view the procrastination in convening an Arab summit. Had democracy been the order of the day in the Arab World such degree of Arab irresponsibility would not and could not be so rampant in our midst. Accordingly as long as the Arab people have no say in the major decisions affecting their lot and enjoy no meaningful mechanism and forum to give expression to their yearnings and aspirations, the disarray in the Arab order would continue unabated.

Baghdad is an Arab capital which is the object of Western conspiracies. It would seem natural and logical to have it host the proposed Arab summit. The fact that there is an Arab consensus in favour of holding the summit there should have encouraged the rest of the Arab countries to accommodate the wish of the majority. For how long is the veto power within the Arab ranks going to be allowed to frustrate the desires of the majority? If the Arab World cannot enjoy democracy even at the level of their heads of state, then there is no hope of ever introducing it to their respective peoples.

To yield to Arab majority is an act of chivalry of the first order. The Arab capital which accepts the judgement of the majority of the Arab countries on the summit idea or any other idea stands to gain the respect and appreciation of the entire Arab World from the Gulf to the ocean. There is therefore every hope and conviction that Damascus would not fail the Arab World in this matter and would choose not to appear as the stumbling block in the path of holding the urgently needed Arab summit.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday praised Saudi Arabia for its current endeavours to convene an Arab summit meeting and to end differences among Arab leadership. Commenting on Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz's current tour in the Arab states to pave the ground for the Arab summit, the paper said that the immense challenges facing the Arab Nation and the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration into Palestine as well as the other dangers posed to the Arabs should prompt their leaders to embark on a summit without any hesitation. The summit is only one step to deal with the dangers and the common threats posed to the Arabs since they face an onslaught directed against the whole Arab order and not one country alone, the paper continued. It said that the Saudi prince's tour reflects the importance Saudi Arabia attaches to the coming summit and the reconciliation of Arab leaders before such a meeting can be convened if it is to achieve success. Inter-Arab differences, the paper said, can be by no means serve the Arab national goals.

Writing in Al Ra'i, columnist Khaled Mahadin says that world Zionism is gathering Jews from around the world and forcing them to settle in occupied Palestine where their final suicide is bound to occur. The writer says that the Jews, arriving like pirates on board ships, are bound to face angry Arabs ready to fight for their survival; and thus the coming confrontation is inevitable. The Jews arriving in occupied Arab lands, says Mahadin, will not find the land they had been promised a bed of roses, nor will they find bags full of money and American cars awaiting them in their new homes which they will be stealing from their lawful owners in Palestine. Sooner or later, these newcomers will discover that they had been deceived and that they were led to a hell that would inevitably engulf them with its flames, the writer continues. He notes that over the past 42 years, the Jews in occupied Palestine found that they could not integrate fully and that the Polish Jews, the French Jews, and the Eastern Jews and others retained their own identity. These Jews, he says will soon discover that the Arabs will not remain silent and that they will find guns and weapons with which they will drive out the pirates from the Arab homeland.

Al Dastour daily commented on King Hussein's statements Monday that there will be no change in the venue of the Arab summit meeting and that the summit was of paramount importance for the Arab Nation. The paper said that Saudi Arabia and Jordan have been spearheading efforts to bring about reconciliation among Arab leaders, paving the ground for the long delayed summit. The King made the statement in the light of his meeting with the Saudi crown prince with whom he reviewed Arab affairs and the challenges posed to the Arab order, said the paper. The paper said that Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz's visit to Jordan is bound to give further impetus to the joint Saudi-Jordanian efforts and is bound to bear fruit.

Economic Forum

Political sense and nonsense in U.S. Mideast policies

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

I HAVE been writing economic columns for about seven years, in which I addressed myself strictly to economic issues. One very good reason for that was that there has been no shortage of political columnists and the bewildering oversupply of writings in almost all fields especially politics. Today's column is a breakaway from that "economic" habit, an exception that proves the rule rather than refutes it. Of course my destination is politics, and more specifically, the politics of the Palestinian question or the Mideast question if some of our foreign readers wish so. Now ponder the following remarks which to me amount to puzzles:

— The Arab diplomacy and politicians have accorded the U.S. a prominent role on the assumption that the U.S. is the only power that can pressure Israel into peace compromises or into any other thing. However, the evidence of his-

tory indicates that the first and last time the U.S. exercised pressure on Israel was in the aftermath of the 1965 Suez war. Worse even, Israel has ever since been the party to pressure the U.S. to do that most successfully. The record of U.S.-Israel relations indicates that it is replete with American apologies to Israel whenever the Americans hinted at the slightest possibility of pressuring the Israeli state. Normally these apologies are followed by an American hacking down and succumbing to the Israeli pressure. Unbelatedly, the Israeli viewpoint is embraced as an American stance.

— During the last forty years, Arabs have been talking about war but actually making peace while the Israelis talked about peace and practically made wars. How come that the so-called democracies of the capitalist countries heard the Arab words all along, and

ignored the Israeli deeds, all along as well? The Americans never stopped talking about solutions to the Palestinian problem. Since the early months after 1967 occupation of the Arab lands there was always something up in the air, a plan or an initiative alleged to lead to some sort of a solution. Not a single achievement was made, and after 23 years of Israeli occupation the solution is more remote. That American talk served as a powerful sedative which fooled us into endless waiting and futile patience. All along, the Israelis always insisted on what the Arabs rejected and they rejected what we later accepted in a well-designed strategy aiming at aborting all peace efforts.

— About a year ago, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat announced that the PLO recognised U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which meant an implicit recognition of the state

of Israel. The impression of the man in Arab and Palestinian streets, was that something would be given to the PLO, the Palestinians or the Arabs in return to that recognition and that "something" would be big. What happened thereafter? Shamir announced Israel would never talk, directly or indirectly, to PLO and emphasised there was no land for peace. The Americans on their part denied Arafat even an entry visa to the U.S. to address the U.N. General Assembly. If a talk, directly or indirectly, is denied, is there any sort of rational politics that assumes that Israel will give land back to the Palestinians or the Arabs (not to mention a Palestinian state)? If a visa is withheld, who has the right to expect that the U.S. will pressure Israel into anything? Nevertheless, the illusion of the Arabs with the American goes on.

— The final remark relates

to the resolution of the Congress decreeing Jerusalem as the perpetual capital of Israel. That resolution comes as one that that "something" would be actions which characterise the so called American way of life and of thinking. If the domain of the Congress of the greatest capitalist democracy reaches that far, what will the situation be if the Congress decided that Peking is the capital of Taiwan? The Bush administration announced that the resolution does not commit it. Things must be that way because otherwise imagine a situation where the Congress decides that Lithuania, for example, is an American state.

To link up with our original subject, we finish this break-away from economics by a remark relating to the breakthrough achieved by the IMF in Morocco. Last week news, carried to us the success of the IMF in convincing Morocco to

devalue its dirham. Some months earlier, the IMF also forced another currency devaluation in Tunisia. Last year the fund was successful in forcing Egypt to devalue its pound. A little bit earlier, it tried to lure Sudan into devaluing its pound. By now, currency devaluation has become a universal standard prescription marketed by the IMF in all developing countries. Devaluation is promoted under the pretext that it gives domestic exports a price advantage to compete with foreign products. Our concluding remark is that if all or most developing countries are to devalue their currencies in pursuance of IMF recommendations, the conceived price advantage will be wiped out. What must follow is the conclusion that, currency devaluation, in the final analysis, only imposes austerity on developing countries in order to enhance their capacity to repay their external debt. Is this a biased conclusion?

Missing peace opportunity will lead region to catastrophe

The following article is reprinted in full from the May 6 issue of the Los Angeles Times.

By HRH Crown Prince Hassan

AMMAN — The world's attention has focused these past few weeks on the release of hostages in Lebanon. But other than this long-playing human drama, the Middle East seems curiously passive.

The region's longstanding problems — Palestine, the occupied territories, Lebanon, the Gulf, economic development — seem nowhere near equitable solutions. Serious efforts by Arabs and Israelis to get the peace process advancing meaningfully seem equally absent.

Yet there is an unprecedented opportunity for the Israelis to accommodate their neighbours and seriously tackle the festering issues that have haunted our region for generations. Jordan stands ready to seize the opportunity in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill.

But the opportunity for a genuinely lasting peace in our region diminishes — and recedes — daily.

An expanding, international, fundamentalist Islamic movement, influential in the politics of Muslim societies from South-East Asia westward through Afghanistan to Lebanon and North Africa, may become active in the Intifada. Unless peace prevails, there will be a war that knows no territorial or national boundaries. It will be a war of attrition that seeks to undermine the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nation-states by dissolving them into their components.

The sole triumphant residue of this war will be fundamentalism — Islamic, Christian and Jewish. The Gulf, Palestine, Lebanon — these are only the flash points. The fanatical war, if unchecked and uncontained, could extend from Cairo to Islamabad and beyond. We would then witness the ethnic Lebaneseisation of our region.

Peace in the Middle East will remain elusive as long as Israel denies the existence of the principal aggrieved party in the dispute — the Palestinian people. Successive Israeli prime ministers have tried to deal with the Palestinian question through third parties. For several years Israel toyed with the "Jordanian option." Egypt seems its current surrogate.

But it is neither Jordan's nor Egypt's responsibility to participate in this subterfuge. Nor should they, since it would signify their acquiescence to the denial of the Palestinians' fundamental

right to national self-determination.

Peace presumes that the other party undergoes a comparable transformation of attitudes, values and outlook. This is not the case in the Middle East. Israel, under Yitzhak Shamir, seems intent on squandering its opportunity by refusing to accept the exchange of land for peace — the only acceptable basis for a just and lasting settlement — as embodied in United Nations resolutions 242 and 338. These resolutions call for the withdrawal of foreign presences from the occupied territories, and also offer implicit recognition of Israel's sovereign existence.

Israel, meanwhile, has been energetically attempting to frustrate its own proposal for elections in the occupied territories. Its government's objection centres on the emotive question of Palestinian representation.

With Israel continually denying the right of the Palestine Liberation Organisation to represent the Palestinian people, the real purpose of the Israeli elections becomes only too clear: to drive a wedge between the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their acknowledged and recognised leaders in the PLO.

To lift the situation out of this current quagmire, the region requires economic and political initiatives that hold the promise of working. But everyone seems obsessed with procedural matters. The Middle East situation has become a minuet.

Jordan's leadership has always believed that for the peace process to be successful, both Israel and the PLO must offer their respective peoples practical options. Jordan is committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The most appropriate vehicle for this outcome is an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

The resolution of the Palestine question can only be achieved in partnership, not by force of arms or by compelling immigrants to settle on occupied land. We cannot afford to wait until the Arabs and Israelis compromise themselves to the negotiating table. They must be induced to talk — and talk now.

The formulation of moderate policies and practical approaches, based on an Arab consensus, has been a Jordanian national objective towards which King Hussein has constantly worked. The time has come for our Western friends — and indeed well-wishers everywhere — to more fully recognise Jordan's continuing efforts to promote peace and stability in the Middle East.

In the belief that a drastic jolt was needed for the peace process



to become viable again, King Hussein embarked in July 1988, on a fresh course to renew Palestinian responsibility for the liberation of its own homeland by severing all administrative and legal links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank. This decision defined Palestinians as distinct from Jordanians and other Arabs, and positioned them to secure, by negotiation, their national rights.

Regrettably, Israel hasn't chosen to join in the spirit of accommodation. It has chosen instead to distract attention from the issue of peace. This time it has gathered all its resources to welcome a new wave of emigration.

This massive emigration provides a powerful case for Israeli expansionists to keep the occupied territories for settlement of new immigrants. Not only will it exact a price by threatening all peace initiatives; the economic cost to Israel is staggering. The Shamir government has asked the

United States for at least \$300 million to help pay for the settlement of Soviet newcomers in Israel.

The chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel estimates that 750,000 immigrants will arrive in Israel during the next five to six years. Already, more than 360,000 Soviet Jews have been invited to settle in Israel; the Israeli consulate in Moscow is issuing 200 visas a day to Jewish applicants.

The numbers are truly stunning: between 1980 and 1988, only 15,752 Jews arrived in Israel from the Soviet Union. But when the Soviets relaxed their emigration rules, the flood began. In the first three months of this year, more than 17,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel. Recently, 1,000 Jews landed in Tel Aviv in one day. This huge migration could easily change the face of the Jewish state, whose current population is just 4.4 million. Jordan has also advocated

greater regional and interregional economic cooperation. This would promote political stability and also enhance the peace constituency in the Arab World.

Potential building blocks for this wider cooperation can be found in the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Maghreb states. The oil resources and revenues of Gulf council members continue to be major factors in the economic growth of the region.

Another building block is a relatively new group known as the Arab Cooperation Council, which consists of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen. Our idea is to think in practical terms about such common concerns as water, energy, transportation and telecommunications.

To safeguard against a breakdown of peace process, proposals that accommodate both the political requirements of the Palestinians and the resettlement of Soviet Jews must be designed.

The United States, the Soviet Union, Europe and other parties to the dispute, should combine their expertise, wisdom and influence to chart a fresh course for peace, economic development and regional integration in the Middle East. Since the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories violate international law, the United States and Europe should tie their aid for the immigration and resettlement of Soviet Jews in the country to Israel's freezing all settlement activity in the territories. They can also do much to ameliorate this difficult situation by increasing their annual immigration quotas for Soviet Jews.

For our part, Jordan has called for an Arab summit to formulate a peace strategy that would safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and the security and stability of the Arab regional order.

It is clear that the present climate in international relations is conducive to the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council. This conference would be an appropriate forum in which to deal with the problem once other methods have been exhausted. Whatever happens, the world should not simply wait until the Arabs and the Israelis are ready to make suitable compromises. They must be induced to do so.

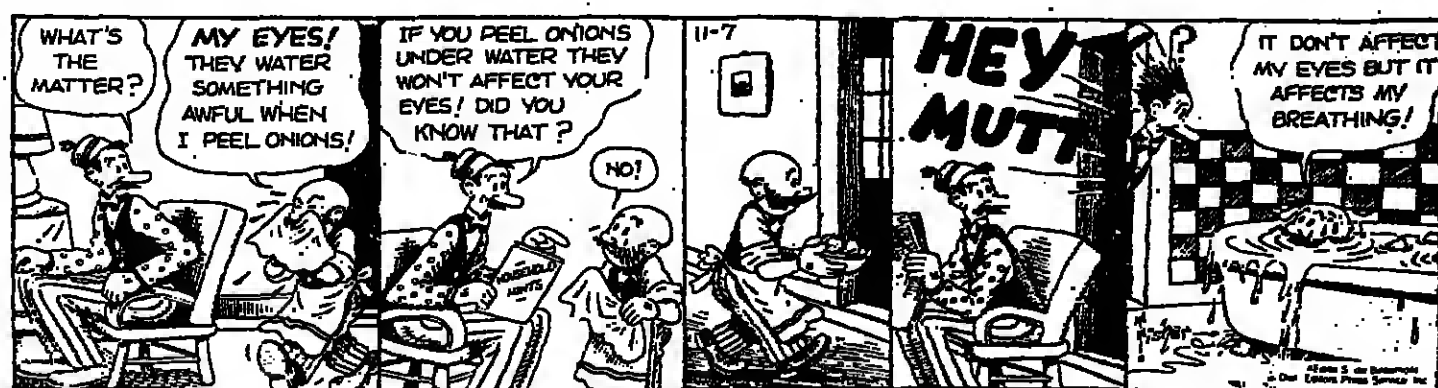
A settlement of the Palestinian question will expel the threat of war and of communal strife from the Middle East political arena. The two superpowers would take a more direct role in resolving the regional conflict, through the United Nations machinery, without fear or prejudice to their respective positions or interests in the region.

Israeli expansionism will only fuel and nurture the Palestinian uprising. This is much like having a party in a small flat, and expecting your neighbours to move when your guest list grows too large.

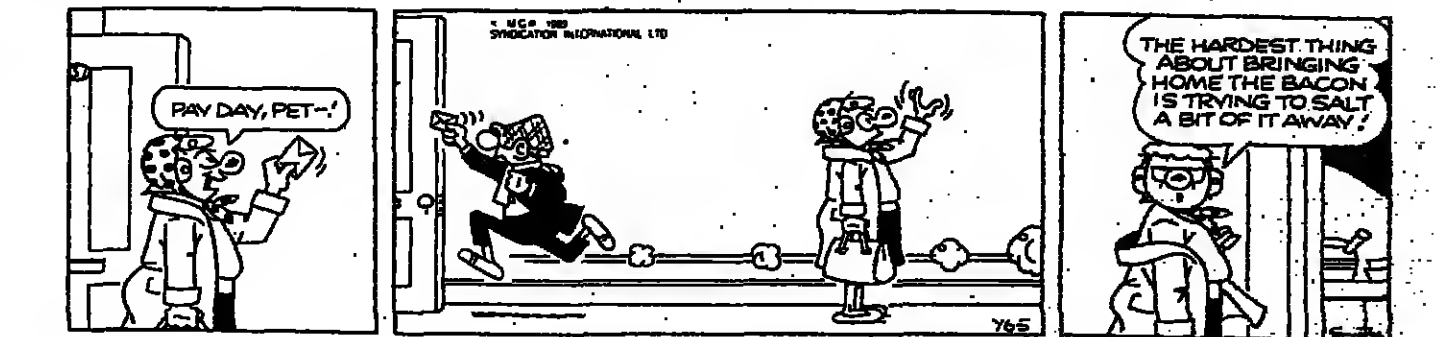
Israel's identity as a haven for the oppressed and persecuted is reinforced by its open arms to the Soviet Jews. This allows Israel once again to claim a moral high ground that was disintegrating into quicksand because of the cynical way in which it treated their own oppressed and persecuted — the Palestinians.

We hold out both a challenge and an olive branch to the Israelis. Will they seize the opportunity for peace?

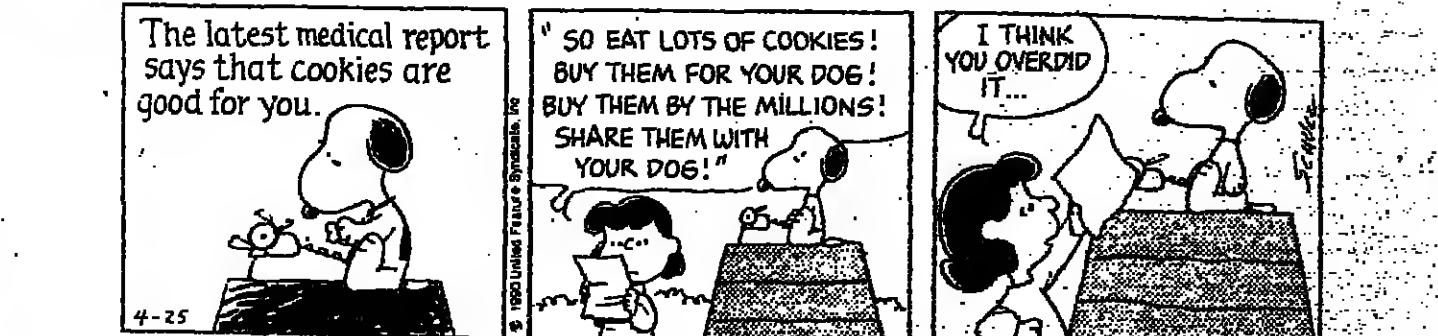
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.



'Little Queens' live on at an old French mill

"That marvelous device which enables some to go shopping and others to win races" — Robert Chapatte, television sports commentator.

By Philippe Chevalier

THIS MUSEUM is unique in the world. It houses 200 models of astonishing bicycles in an old mill in Maule, 42 kilometres west of Paris. From room to room, one relives the history of this strange machine which an admirer, a poet no doubt, named the "little queen."

The museum presents the whole gamut of bicycles from the venerable machine from the early 19th century to the collapsible bicycles used by the army in the First World War, and including dozens of prototypes and unique home-made models.

The bicycle museum "Musée de Véloécologie" is the work of an ardent collector, Gérard Buisson, a window-dresser by trade. However, contrary to what one might expect, his idea of happiness is not to be astride a bike. He does not enjoy that at all. What fills him with delight is to discover an unusual model at the back of a shed or in an auction.

"It came to me about thirty years ago. A client had asked me to find an old 'Big Bi' bicycle for a flea market to decorate his shopwindow with. I found the machine so beautiful that, instead of selling it off after I had finished with it, as I do with other objects in my job, I kept it. That's how my collection began," says Gérard Buisson.

To begin with, he used to store his treasures in his cellar. When it became full, he rented a garage, and then two garages, and then three and then five. They were all filled right up to the ceiling when he was finally able to make his dream come true in the 60s and buy an old mill: whose paddle-wheel still dips into the green waters of the mauldre, so, as to display his machines there.

His oldest bike is the "Draisienne." It serves as a reminder that the bicycle was born of man's desire to no longer have to rely on animal power. This wooden machine, decorated with a horse's head, was thought up by the German baron Charles De Drais. It had been presented in the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris on 5th April 1818 and had a mobile front wheel, which was a decisive improvement on the "cyclette" from the previous

century (*). The year 1855 brought the "Michaux," iron had replaced the wood, and, above all, the front wheel had pedals and the first brake system. "Cycling" was coming into being. Michaux, nicknamed "Papa Pedal," handed over to the Paris mechanic Sergeant who invented the transmission chain (1865). Three years later, Meyer, another French mechanic, adapted the pedals, no longer on the wheel, but in the middle of the frame. That same year, a clockmaker from the centre of France, Joseph Meunier, had the idea of the first free wheel.

All this is presented in the Maule bicycle museum. It is a heroic epic which, with the funny, the stunning, the weird, and the unusual, shows the evolution of the "little queen." Together with the "Big Bi" with its two-metre wheel, there is a sextuplet, which was used for training six racing-cyclists in 1895, two-seater tricycles, multi-wheels with foot-pushers, handles, levers, cogwheel mechanisms, shafts, springs, and a bike carved out entirely by knife from boxwood by an Auvergne cowhand... and it works!

One can see early boneshakers gradually turning into today's high-precision instruments, elegant and thoroughly bred with their gleaming enamel, the filigree garland of their chain, the sparkling, nickel-coated spokes of their wheels, their prettily shaped saddles, and their gracefully curved handlebars which have replaced the rudimentary steerer of yesteryear.

And bicycle accessories have not been forgotten either. An incongruous assembly of warning bells, bizarre bicycle pumps and archaic mirrors... And even whips and pistols with which our grandfather cyclists drove away dogs barking in their wheels — L'Actualité, en France.

(*) The "cyclette" was launched in the Palais Royal in Paris in 1790. It was thought up by a certain De Sivrac and consisted of a wooden beam with small wheels at either end. The rider sat astride it and moved forward by making big strides along the road.

Egyptian settlers reclaim desert

By Mercedes Sayagues

Layla Mohammad's blue-green eyes filled with tears when she first saw the village that would be her new home. The drab rows of identical, one-story cement houses, tightly packed in the middle of the empty desert; the sandy, treeless space nominally declared main square; and the flat, uncultivated land stretching away as far as she could see.

She had not wanted to come — it was her husband's idea. As the meagre salary of a state employee in a small town in the Nile Delta could not cover the family needs, he applied for a plot of land through Egypt's desert reclamation project. The Government levels the land, provides irrigation and builds villages. Then the settlers move in and the desert moves out — slowly.

This is no overnight miracle. It takes at least four years before a farm of five to six feddans (one feddan equals half a hectare) can support a family with subsistence food and an income. Repayment of the house and land is spread out over 30 years without interest, with a three-year grace period.

Layla first rejected the idea. "My husband, a labourer?" she protested. "And we are to live in the desert?" She argued and pleaded, but when her husband threatened to go by himself, Layla gave in. She packed their few belongings, prepared their two small children and in the spring of 1987 the family arrived by truck at the brand new settlement of Tawfik Al Hakim, in Nubariya, 30 kilometres south of Alexandria.

It was hot, dry and dusty. Layla was miserable. She wept every night for two weeks. "Then," she

says, "one day I decided I couldn't weep all my life." She became acquainted with other women in the settlement, joined the women's club, and now helps to run its daycare centre.

The Mohammad family had "a real hard time," says Layla. The farm takes most of her husband's time, nine to 10 hours a day. She misses her family who remained in their hometown, eight hours away by bus. Would she recommend becoming a settler in the desert to her friends?

Layla pauses, then nods. "I wouldn't lie and say it's easy," she says smiling. "I would say that now we are land owners, we have our own house, chickens, rabbits and a cow. It's a completely new way of life."

Nadia Abdul Macty, a plump 14-year-old girl helping in the daycare centre, chips into the conversation. "There is a school, a health clinic and a youth club," she says. "That was unheard of in the old village."

Warning up to private investors

For tens of thousands of Egyptian landless farmers, unemployed graduates and low-level Government employees, the new life in the desert brings hope of a better future. For the country, trapped between massive unemployment, an exploding population of 53 million and no remaining arable land, settling the desert is one solution.

"Land reclamation is a top national priority," says Dr. Youssef Wali, Egypt's Minister of Agriculture and Deputy prime Minister. In 1989 alone, the authorities expect to reclaim and cultivate 85,000 hectares in the Delta, North Sinai and in Upper

Egypt.

Land reclamation does not come cheap. Cement-lined canals to bring water from the Nile, pumping stations, drainage networks, roads, electricity, potable water, sanitation — just the basic infrastructure works — average U.S\$ 790 per feddan. The villages spring up on the sandy soil — and their houses, schools, mosques, health clinics, administrative offices, shops and marketing cooperatives add up to a hefty bill. The cheap prices settlers pay mean the Government recovers only half of the land reclamation costs, over many years and without interest. Is it worth it?

"It's our only option," says Dr. Adel El-Beltagy, Under-Secretary for Land Reclamation at the Ministry of Agriculture. "We have to increase food production, provide jobs to ensure sociopolitical stability and spread the population outside the congested Delta. Luckily we are blessed with land to expand."

Increasingly, the Government is shifting its strategy to let the private sector bear the costs of land reclamation. "We welcome individual investors and multinational companies," Dr. Youssef Wali told the WFP Journal.

In the current five-year plan to reclaim 315,000 hectares, one-quarter of the land will be allocated to landless farmers and unemployed graduates at cheap rates. The rest will be sold to private investors at market prices ranging between US\$850 and US\$1,700 for half a hectare.

The World Food Programme is helping in this huge, complex and expensive effort. Since 1980, the Programme has delivered food aid worth US\$48 million to help some 51,000 settlers and their families during their first three to four years. "After the farms start producing enough for consumption and sale, the settlers are on their own," says Farid Oufi, the former WFP Director of Operations in Egypt. "We don't want them to become dependent on food aid."

The beneficiaries are given wheat, canned meat, cheese or fish, vegetable oil, and sugar and tea. The Government contributes 25 per cent of the local value of the food to a fund which is used to finance community development activities: village cooperatives, animal husbandry, training for women and improved housing. Since a rural family spends up to 65 percent of its income on food, the savings are considerable.

"In the past, WFP was the only international agency helping us," says Dr. El-Beltagy. "Bilateral donors shied away during Nasser's time. There was little help for that model of development in Africa and Latin America. But WFP has always been at the heart of our land reclamation projects."

Little fertile land

Egypt desperately needs to increase its food production. In the 1970s, the country exported agricultural produce. Today, it imports US\$4,000 million worth of food every year — about 40 percent of its total imports.

The agricultural sector has not kept pace with population growth: 1.3 million babies are



Settlers inspect one of the new houses. Whole villages have sprung up where once there was nothing.



This village girl, riding by fields of crops that have grown on what was desert land, will have a better future thanks to the project.



A settler family work together to harvest their first crop of water melons.

born every year, adding to Egypt's already crowded situation. The population density, of nearly 2,000 people per square kilo meter in the narrow strips of fertile land along the River Nile, is one of the highest in the world — teeming millions cluster in the sprawling slums of Cairo and Alexandria and in the continuous string of villages stretching between major cities.

Seen from the air or on coloured map, Egypt pivots around a winding green ribbon — the Nile — thin as it enters from Sudan, bloated as it reaches the Mediterranean. To the left and right, vast expanses of wavy, yellow desert.

Less than 10 per cent of the land is fertile and even this small portion shrinks every year, lost to urban encroachment. To halt this trend, the Government uses drastic measures, sending in bulldozers when unauthorized urban development eats up good agricultural land. It has also banned brickmaking with the famous Egyptian red clay because it re-

moves precious topsoil. Instead industries and builders must use concrete.

If agricultural land is scarce, Egypt will create it. Six million hectares of desert are waiting to be developed. In the last 10 years, 1.6 million hectares have been reclaimed against losses not exceeding 300,000 hectares. So far the authorities sound optimistic: the projects work well; the people are enthusiastic. More than 100,000 hopeful applicants showed up for 5,000 openings recently. Many are the children of former settlers who have seen their parents succeed. For the small percentage of applicants who are accepted after careful screening and personal interviews, the challenge begins.

Mr. El Hussein, a former low-level Government employee earning 120 Egyptian pounds a month, arrived at Village 11 in 1987. He grows corn, tomatoes and watermelons on his farm, and has chickens, vegetables and blooming white and purple flowers in his well-tended garden. Paper cutouts of flowers decorate

the walls of his one-room house, sparsely furnished and neatly kept. He says he learned to live alone in the army, to cook from women neighbours to cook from women neighbours and to farm with the extension workers. "The hardest part is the lack of cash and getting acquainted with the area," he says.

Three blocks down the street lives Hanaa Abdul Wahab, 24. In the garden, under the cool shade of fruit trees, she keeps chickens, rabbits and pigeons, her main sources of income.

Ms. Wahab and Mr. El Hussein are both active in the community development association that plans to beautify the village by planting trees and improving cleanliness. "Please return next year and you will see how pretty it will look," they tell a visitor. "You should come sooner for the party," says a neighbour, pointedly, while the two grin shyly. It turns out that they plan to get married at the end of 1989. For the settlers, developing the desert opens a whole new way of life... WFP Journal

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

THE PROFESSIONALS ALWAYS CHOOSE THE RELIABLE

PACKING, AIR FREIGHT, FORWARDING, DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES AND DELIVERIES, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE, TICKETS AND RESERVATIONS.

AMIN KAWAR & SONS
TEL: 604078 604095
P.O. BOX 7806 AMMAN

CROWN INT'L EST.

packing, shipping, forwarding, storing, clearing, door-to-door service

Agents all over the world
Tel: 664088, Fax: 660832
P.O. Box 12847 AMMAN JORDAN

The First Class Hotel In Amman that has a Kitchenette in every room...

DAROTEL
داروتيل

Amman - Tel. 668193
P.O. Box 9403 - Fax 602434
Telex 23888 DAROTL JO
Ideal Residence For Expatriates and Businessmen

STUDIO HAIG

Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:

- JUMBO photo size 30% larger
- Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm

Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank. Phone: 604042
Swedish tel: 823891

EASTERN PACKING

DOOR-TO-DOOR SERVICES, INTERNATIONAL FORWARDING.

AIR & SEA FREIGHT
TEL: 601775 FAX: 656270
TEL: 600222 FAX: 674406
JORDAN

The Regency Palace Hotel AL ALALI

Hanta Cuisine Rooftop Restaurant

Nightly Oryx Band & Oriental Belly-dancer RUWAYDAH
For reservation call 660000-15

RESTAURANT CHINA

The first & best Chinese Restaurant in Jordan

1st Circle, Jabal Amman, near Alhithayy Girls School
Tables always available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight
Tel. 639968

Kashmir Restaurant

FIRST CLASS INDIAN RESTAURANT

Special Executive Lunches available
Take away service available
Open Daily 12:30-3:30 pm
7:30-11:30 pm
After the Philadelphia Hotel Towards 3rd circle
Tel. 659519 659520

CHEN'S CHINESE RESTAURANT

Mecca Street, Yarmouk Engineers' Housing Estate, near Kilo Supermarket

Mongolian Barbecue for Lunch Friday only
Tel: 818214
Come and taste our specialties
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30-Midnight

MEXICAN FOOD

Between 1st & 2nd Circle, Jabal Amman
Tel: 654205
Open For LUNCH & DINNER

RENT Saudi Real Estate

Furnished & unfurnished apartments & villas for rent in West Amman area.

CALL SOHA
Rental Dept. 687821/22

For the best for your money...

ADVERTISE in the Jordan Times

Ben Salim to take part in Jordan Rally

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Middle East rally champion Mohammad Ben Salim will take part in Jordan's international rally, which will be held May 16 and 17.

Ben Salim has won Jordan's rally three times in 1984, 1987 and 1988. However, in 1989 he could not take part in the rally because the rally was cancelled that year.

After sustaining a defeat in Cyprus international rally as a result of mechanical faults in his Toyota Celica G.T. 4, which forced him to withdraw from the

rally, Ben Salim is determined now to keep his record in Jordan's rallies.

The champion will drive a Winston Toyota car, now being equipped in Jordan, assisted by Irish national Roman Morgan.

The car's engine has been replaced and so has the gear box. If Ben Salim wins Jordan's rally then he will be champion of the rallies in the Middle East following his victory in the Qatar rally in February which constituted the first part of the two part rally.



Mohammad Ben Salim

Iraq beats Jordan in basketball

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Iraqi team Al Rashid Tuesday defeated host Al Orthodox Club of Jordan 95-77 in a match played as part of the 5th Arab Basketball Championship for men and the 1st championship for ladies. In Tuesday's other matches the Algerian Itihad Al Binaa Club defeated Al Tibigh of Morocco 103-96 and Al Nabuli of Tunis beat Ghaza of Palestine 95-83.

In ladies' games Algerian club Hussein Dai defeated The Orthodox Club 63-49.

Al Kazima basketball team of Kuwait Monday defeated Al Ahli team of Egypt 91-83. Al Rashid also defeated Al Itihad team of Syria in the five-minute extension 92-86.

The two teams drew in the original match time (75-75).

Al Orthodox Club Monday defeated the Saudi team Ubud 93-89.

In Wednesday's games, the Algerian club Hussein Dai will meet Al Shurta of Iraq (ladies); Al Ahli of Jordan will play Al Ma'ab of Tunisia (ladies) while Al Kabraba' of Algeria will meet Al Tibigh of Morocco (men).



Orthodox Club player Jabran trying to basket while other players watch in Monday's match against the Saudi team Ubud.

Australian Open struggles for money

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The Australian Open could lose its grand slam status to tennis tournaments in Sweden, Japan or the United States if it doesn't increase prize money, tournament general manager Jim Reid said Monday.

"We are flat out meeting the current level," Reid said referring to difficulty in raising more funds. "We have to find extra money or risk losing grand slam status."

Reid was reacting to news that two of the other grand slam events, Wimbledon and the French Open, will hike their purses by 22 per cent. The U.S. Open is the fourth grand slam tournament.

Both Wimbledon and the French Open both will offer \$5.75 million in 1991, compared to the \$3 million purse for the 1990 Australian Open. The Australian tournament has difficulty attracting top players because it is played three weeks after Christmas.

"We have to keep pace. We had high hopes of catching up — and had hoped that they would not increase their prize money to the extent of 22 per cent," Reid said. "It's very difficult to main-

tain (our) status. Sweden, Japan and Florida are barking at our heels and have made no secret that they want the fourth leg of the Grand Slam."

The International Tennis Federation in London sanctions the four grand slam events.

He said the Australian tournament organizers were trying to agree to a new prize money figure for 1991.

Would it match the 22 per cent increase in France and England?

"We have to be looking at something around that order," Reid said.

He said the only avenues open to increase revenue were increased ticket prices and higher fees for international television rights.

He ruled out the possibility of increased sponsorship, saying the tournament already had an agreement with Ford Australia for 1991.

Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

Perez retains WBC bantamweight title

LOS ANGELES (R) — Mexico's Raul Perez retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight championship Monday when he stopped third-ranked contender Gerardo Martinez of the United States in the last seconds of the ninth round.

Perez, making his fifth title defence, knocked Martinez to the canvas with 30 seconds left in the ninth with a flurry of lefts and rights to the challenger's head. Martinez struggled to his feet,

but the 23-year-old champion knocked him down again. Referee Henry Elaspuru stopped the scheduled 12-round bout after the second knockdown at two minutes 59 seconds of the ninth round.

Perez, who stands 1.80 metres tall, used his 20 centimetres reach advantage effectively against his shorter opponent and scored throughout the fight with left jabs and rights to the 24-year-old Martinez's head.

MANY VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT & SALE
Furnished or Unfurnished
In Shmeisani, Swaifish, Abdoun and many other locations.
For more information please call
Abdoun Real Estate
PREVIOUSLY
Weel Real Estate
Tel: 610000, 610005

FOR RENT IN ABDOUN SEMI-DETACHED VILLA
Nice residential area duplex, semi-detached, three bedrooms, ready to use telephone, all wall to wall brand new carpets, semi-furnished, small garden in front and back, low running energy and water costs.
Contact owner direct at tel: 641089 or fax: 642422 mornings from 9:30 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. and from 3:30 p.m. till 6:00 p.m.

MISSING DOG
For German family in Um Uthaina. Small, long haired, brown dog of Pomeranian race (Spitz type) lost his way home on Wednesday evening.
If you know his whereabouts please contact Tel. 818474 (private) or 689351 (office). Thank you.

FOREIGN MAID NEEDED
Live in and v. good English to work for Jordanian family - good salary.
Pls. call tel. (603394) (10 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠1065 ♣KJ1043 ♦762 ♣95
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♦ 3 ♣ 4 ♠
What action do you take?

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ762 ♣9652 ♦Void ♠8763
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠4 ♣AK1052 ♦KJ76 ♠AJ9
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠965 ♣AK5 ♦QJ93 ♠Q52
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠
What do you bid now?

For information about Charles Goren's newsletter for bridge players, write Goren Bridge Letter, P.O. Box 4426, Orlando, Fla. 32802-4426.

GARAGE SALE FOR ART LOVERS
Piano Kawai, traditional jars and rugs, art works.
On May 10, 11 and 12, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
At Mona Saudi residence, 2nd Circle, behind the Lebanese Embassy - Jabal Amman. Tel. 654320.

WANTED UNFURNISHED FLAT
Norwegian journalist needs 1 or 2-bedroom flat, unfurnished, in Jabal Amman/Shmeisani areas. Telephone, separate central heating.
Pls. call: 673443

WANTED
A dressmaker, preferably a Filipino. Long experience required.
Phone 640204 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155
BATMAN
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420
SUZANNE
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HRH CROWN PRINCE HASSAN
The Royal Theatre Company in co-operation with The British Council and Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental in aid of Friends of the Liver Patients Society Presents
BRITISH WEEK Theatre
May 12-17th Dinner & Show
AT HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL
A NEW MUSICAL BY VANESSA BATROUNI
May 13 - 16th inclusive
AT HOTEL JORDAN INTER-CONTINENTAL
AT 9:30 PM WITH COMEDIAN CHRIS WHEELER AND "BOUQUET" FEMALE MUSICAL DUO
JO.15.000 PLUS 10% COV. TAX. PLUS 10% SERVICE CHARGE
BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN. (MAYFAIR)
ON FRIDAY, MAY 19TH, 11am - 5pm
AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR
OPENING NIGHT AND LAST NIGHT SPECIAL OFFER
BRONTE AND DINNER AND ENTERTAINMENT
Tickets JD 16.000
ALL PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO 10% GOVERNMENT TAX AND 10% SERVICE CHARGE
Sponsored by

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144
Hangmen
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Jordan Medical Aid for Palestinians
MAP Walk
Friday 11/5/1990

Date, time and venue
The walk will start at the Intercontinental Hotel at 8:30 a.m. on Friday 11th May 1990 and will follow the route outlined in the map below. Participants are requested to arrive not later than 8.00. It will end at Kherbat Abu Jaber.

Stations
The Walk will be divided into substages (stations) 2 km. apart. Participants will collect a yellow card at the Intercontinental Hotel and have a new card at each station. The final (11th) station will be at Kherbat Abu Jaber.

How much should one walk
One can walk as he/she wants, but the minimum valid distance is 2 km. i.e. one should get at least the first card.

Food & drinks
Participants with yellow cards will be provided with food and drinks free of charge along the route at every station upon the presentation of the yellow card.

Buses & Shuttles
These will be available during the walk to take the participants back to the Intercontinental Hotel or Kherbat Abu Jaber. An ambulance will be on stand by in case of emergency.

Police supervision
The police have been notified and will be available to ensure the safety of the participants.

Media Coverage
The event will be covered by T.V. Radio and the local newspapers.

Collection of money
After completing the walk, the money pledged by all sponsors on each form, should be brought back to the organising committee not later than 25th of May 1990.

Souk Baladi Friday 11 / 5 / 1990

For Walkers and non Walkers
For the whole Family
Come and spend Friday at "Souk Baladi"
Kherbat Abu Jaber / Al-Yadudah.
From 11:00 a.m to 7:00 p.m.
* Free Entrance
* Light Lunch outdoors.
* Enjoy the wide range of the traditional products of our country, & have lots of fun & entertainment. Come & meet our famous Jordanian actors.
* Shop from our big varieties of specially homemade foods.

For more information please call 611065
Riyadh Centre 2nd floor Jabal Amman 3rd Circle

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571
Happy Eid Al Fitr and Many Happy Returns
Adel Imam... in **Hanafi the Great (Hanafi Al Ubbahah)**
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238
LETHAL WEAPON II
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Talks between Iliescu, protesters break down

BUCHAREST (R) — Talks between Romanian President Ion Iliescu and a delegation from Bucharest's marathon street demonstration broke down shortly after they began Tuesday, members of the delegation said.

Iliescu sat down with representatives of the protesters at 10.30 a.m. in the parliament building, but the delegation walked out a few minutes later when the government side refused to allow the talks to be filmed.

Marian Munteanu, president of the Students' League, one of the four anti-government groups in the delegation, immediately returned to the demonstration in Bucharest's University Square to rally news of the breakdown to a crowd of about 2,000 people.

The street demonstration has been a source of acute embarrassment for the government in the run-up to Romania's first free elections in more than 50 years and Iliescu had been seeking talks with protest leaders for several days.

Munteanu said the talks could not have gone ahead without the presence of video cameras because the demonstrators engaged in the non-stop protest deserved to see evidence of what had transpired.

"Out of respect for your struggle we had to leave the building," he said.

A spokesman for Iliescu later told reporters that the presence of cameras was not necessary because arrangements had been made to take shorthand notes of the proceedings.

The final text of the talks would have been given to both sides for signatures if they could agree on conditions for the talks.

The protest delegation had carried several specific demands into the talks with Iliescu, a former Communist official who was sacked by Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu 15 years ago.

Since one of the demands was to ban former Communist officials from holding public office, it had been thought unlikely that the talks stood much chance of success.

Munteanu urged demonstrators to remain in the square until their demands had been met.

To loud applause he said: "It is necessary for the demonstration

to continue in order to affirm the principles of democracy. Nothing can stop the fight for truth and freedom."

The crowd repeatedly chanted "down with Communism."

The demonstration began on April 22 and has blocked one of Bucharest's main thoroughfares to all but emergency traffic services ever since.

In another development, the National Liberal Party said its presidential candidate, Radu Campeanu, had cancelled campaign stops in Moldavia, north-eastern Romania, after being attacked Saturday by alleged supporters of the National Salvation Front in Braila, 300 kilometres northeast of Bucharest.

Campeanu's face was cut in the attack, said Liberal Party officials, adding that he was considering cancelling rallies in the central city of Brasov and in Timisoara, about 300 kilometres west of Bucharest, out of concern for his safety.

Both Campeanu and Ion Ratiu, candidate of the National Peasants' Party, have recently threatened to boycott the elections unless political violence perpetrated by alleged front supporters abated. Ratiu and his wife also have claimed to have been the target of assaults by front members.

Angolan rebels claim field victory

LISBON (AP) — The U.S.-backed rebels in Angola claimed Tuesday they had routed government forces after a three-day battle in the southeastern part of the African country.

Portuguese news media reports, meanwhile, indicated fighting could be closing on Luanda, Angola's capital.

A rebel statement released in Lisbon said 139 government soldiers were killed during the battle near Mavinga, 1,200 kilometres southeast of Luanda.

The Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) reported from Luanda that Gen. Antonio Dos Santos N'Dalu was nominated to command the Bengo-Cuanza Front, a sign that fighting was as close as 60 kilometres northeast of the capital.

There was no confirmation from Angolan officials that fighting was so close to Luanda.

Government troops launched an offensive last December against rebel positions in Cuando Cubango province in southeastern Angola and claimed they captured an airstrip and strategic rebel base near Mavinga.

In turn, the rebel group, known as UNITA, stepped up bombing and sabotage attacks in Luanda and other towns.

UNITA has never acknowledged defeat at Mavinga, and Tuesday's statement, signed by rebel Chief of Staff Afranio Pena, said recent fighting drove government troops from positions 10 kilometres north of the base.

But Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos said last week government columns had advanced south of Mavinga and soon could be within artillery range of the rebel headquarters at Jamba, some 200 kilometres further south.

A Western diplomat following the Angolan conflict from Lisbon said Tuesday the UNITA claims seemed "exaggerated." The diplomat said he had no reports of a major battle in the region.

Anti-Li Peng poster appears in Peking

PEKING (R) — Chinese police Tuesday hurriedly covered up a poster on a Peking streetcorner attacking hardline Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun in a brief show of political discontent, witnesses said.

They said the crudely written "big character" poster was tacked up on a public bulletin board near the Peking Normal University until police moved in and placed a seal over it.

The unsigned poster, dated May 7, praised Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, the People's Liberation Army and the Chinese people but it added: "Down with Li Peng, Yang Shangkun and the government."

A witness told Reuters: "There was a big crowd of people watching as about 10 policemen came by and covered up the poster with a red seal."

Western diplomats said the incident appeared to be one of several small, isolated acts of defiance against hardline policies that have prevailed since a bloody army crackdown on a campaign for democracy last June.

On April 15, the anniversary of the death of reform Communist leader Hu Yaobang, police arrested a lone man who tried to lay a wreath with an inscription dedicated to the "heroes who died for democracy and freedom."

It was Hu's death that sparked mass protests in Peking and other major cities around the country.

The first issue of an underground newspaper called Steel Currents was distributed last month at Peking University, a hotbed of unrest a year ago.

The premier and president

have been closely linked with tough policies imposed since reformist Zhao Ziyang was ousted as Communist Party chief last June.

Posters in big Chinese characters were a common tool of political protest in the past, used most effectively in the Democracy Wall campaign, a brief flowering of democratic ideals in 1978 and 1979.

During last year's political unrest, posters calling for political reform and attacking government and Communist Party leaders covered walls and bulletin boards of the city's major universities.

Peking has tightened security before key anniversary dates, stepping up police patrols and plainclothes surveillance to prevent any repetition of large scale protests.



Stallone wants to go green

MILAN (R) — American film actor Sylvester Stallone, star of the violent box-office hits Rambo and Rocky, wants to shake off his tough hero image and turn green. "I want Rambo to disappear unless I'm allowed to turn him into the defender of the environment. My new Rambo will be closer to greenpeace than to the CIA," he said at a show in Milan to be broadcast on Italian television Tuesday.

Liz Taylor's health improving each day

LOS ANGELES (R) — Film star Elizabeth Taylor, who almost died in her battle with pneumonia, is improving each day, but no date has been set for her to leave the hospital, her spokeswoman said Monday. Taylor, 58, entered St. John's Hospital over three weeks ago and doctors said for two days her life was in jeopardy. "Elizabeth is doing much better now," her spokeswoman, Chen Sam, said. She said the actress has received flowers and piles of mail from well-wishers. Taylor, who has been married seven times — twice to Richard Burton — issued a statement earlier saying she wanted to deny what she called a plethora of rumours she had an AIDS-related condition.

'Oil can bandits' halt traffic, then rob motorists

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — At least 10 motorists were robbed over the weekend after a gang dumped oil on a San Francisco street, then accosted the occupants of cars that spun out of control, police said. "With the oil on the streets, the tyres can't get a grip, and the victims can't get away," a police lieutenant told the San Francisco Examiner. "They're just helpless." Police called the gang, which numbered five or more men armed with clubs, the "oil can bandits."

U.S. company plans gaining ventures in Soviet Union

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AP) — A Nevada company has signed an agreement with the Soviet government to operate four small casinos in Russia, a company official said. Officials hope to open the first casino along the Black Sea in less than two months, according to Simon Furman, general manager for Uniquad, which will spend about \$1 million to open the four casinos in existing hotels, he said. "The casinos will carry the Las Vegas name because it is known worldwide," Furman said. Glasnost and recent changes in the Eastern Bloc have made it possible to open the casinos in the Soviet Union, Furman said. The first casino will have six or eight table games and 35 to 50 slot machines. It is expected to open this summer in the Dagomys resort town on the Black Sea, Furman said. Two other casinos are planned at resorts near Moscow and another will be opened on the Black Sea. Furman said Uniquad will split the profits from the casinos on an even basis with the Soviet government.

Tyson becomes a father

NEW YORK (AP) — Boxer Mike Tyson became a father last week when a baby boy was born to his 24-year-old girlfriend at a hospital in the upper New York state, the New York Post says. "I'm very happy to be having a family," Tyson told the Post. The newspaper report said the child was born to Natalie Fears of Los Angeles. The name of the hospital was not given. The report also says Tyson has no plans to marry Miss Fears but will buy a house in Los Angeles and support the child. Tyson brought Miss Fears from Los Angeles to the Canille several months ago, and she has been staying with the woman who helped raise Tyson. Camille Ewald, Tyson's not yet seen son because he is training for a June 16 fight with Henry Tillman in Las Vegas, the newspaper said, quoting unidentified sources. The newspaper says a Los Angeles dancer, Treva Archie, 22, said in February that Tyson is the father of her infant son. Tyson has not acknowledged paternity in that case, the Post said. Both Tyson and Miss Fears are divorced.

Trial of rebel army officers begins

MANILA (R) — Twenty-one army rebels cheered defiantly when they went on trial Tuesday in the first court martial of officers linked to December's bloody military attempt to overthrow Philippine President Corason Aquino.

Defence lawyers immediately blocked the arraignment of the two generals and 19 other officers by challenging the authority of the seven-member military court to try the group on mutiny and murder charges.

When the military prosecutor suggested postponing the trial on

legal issues raised by the defence were resolved, several defendants shouted "yes" and broke into applause.

The rebels also cheered when court President General Demetrio Canina opened the session with a slam of the gavel.

One rebel officer raised clenched fists when his name was called out to confirm his presence in the court-room.

Defence lawyer Oliver Lozano walked out in protest against the exclusion of journalists and the defendants' relatives from the heavily guarded courtroom.

Outside the courthouse, Lozano solicited signatures to a leaflet demanding Aquino's resignation "to save the republic."

The 21 defendants were the first group of officers to be tried in connection with the sixth and most serious army coup attempt against Aquino. One hundred and thirteen people died and 600 were wounded in the rebellion.

Hundreds of other soldiers are being investigated but most of the main coup plotters, led by renegade Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, remain at large.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

60 die in Zaire tin mine collapse

KINSHASA (R) — Sixty people died in a cave-in at a tin mine in the Kivu region of northeastern Zaire, national radio has said. Twenty bodies were recovered but 40 remained buried in a pit 20 metres deep at the mine near the border with Rwanda. The mine, not far from the town of Maniema, was operated by the mining company of Kivu (Sominki), which appealed for help to recover the bodies.

'27 million Soviets died in world war'

MOSCOW (R) — The commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact said Monday that the Soviet Union lost at least 27 million people in World War II, seven million more than what for years was the official death toll. General Pyotr Lushch, who is also a first deputy defence minister, said in an interview with the TASS news agency: "In 1946, Stalin said seven million Soviet citizens died ... Khrushchev made public data listing losses at 20 million." He added: "Today, after serious analysis, we know that the Soviet Union lost 27-28 million people during the war." These included more than eight million who had been killed in combat or did not return from captivity, Lushch said. He said former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's estimate of 20 million dead was based on "questionable estimates." "For years, the true scope of the Soviet Union's losses was concealed or distorted," Lushch said in comments apparently timed to coincide with celebrations marking Wednesday's 45th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Talks on U.S. bases in Greece resume

ATHENS (R) — Greece's new conservative government reopened talks with the United States on the future of American bases, government spokesman Byron Polydoras said. The four U.S. Air Force and Navy bases were threatened with closure by November after the former Socialist government suspended talks last May. The United States said in January two bases — Hellenikon Air Force Base, which shares Athens International Airport, and Nea Makri Naval Communications Base east of Athens — would be closed to cut costs. This leaves two bases on the island of Crete — Souda Bay Naval Station and Iraklion Air Force Base — and some smaller installations across Greece to be negotiated. Polydoras said the next talks would be in Washington on May 21.

U.S. to destroy remaining smallpox virus

GENEVA (R) — The United States said Tuesday it would destroy its remaining stocks of live smallpox virus and urged the Soviet Union to do the same. U.S. Health Secretary Louis Sullivan told an annual meeting of the World Health Organisation (WHO) there was no reason to keep samples of the virus — retained so far for scientific reasons — now the disease had been eradicated. Sullivan said eradication of small pox, an ancient scourge that has killed and scarred millions through the centuries, had been a major triumph for international medical cooperation. The WHO launched a major campaign against smallpox in 1959. It ended in 1980 when the U.N. agency officially declared it dead.

Two Americans arrested in Vietnam

BANGKOK (AP) — A Hong Kong-based American publisher and another U.S. citizen have been arrested by Vietnamese authorities and are being held in Ho Chi Minh City, friends said Tuesday. Official Vietnam media has made no mention of the arrests. Friends of publisher Michael Morrow, who said they have been in touch with Vietnamese authorities, said the two Americans were being held on unspecified charges. Morrow's colleagues spoke on condition of anonymity. Friends of Morrow said he and an unidentified American were on trip to look into possible investments in Vietnam when they were arrested. A third person, French businessman Terry Rodzyk, was also reportedly arrested but subsequently released and allowed to leave the country. The group was seized in the central Vietnam city of Danang and taken to Ho Chi Minh City, according to Morrow's friends. Morrow has an association with Vietnam dating back to the war, when he started a private news service in the country. He was captured by Communist forces during the war but released after a short captivity.

Pope focuses attention on Mexico's 'ring of misery'

CHALCO, Mexico (R) — A papal visit has focused attention on Mexico City's "ring of misery," the sprawling slums that surround the capital and team with more people than most Central American countries.

This impoverished community, where Pope John Paul II spoke of the suffering face of poverty Monday, is one of hundreds of bleak "barrios" around Mexico City where millions of people battle daily against hunger and illness.

Fourteen miles southeast of the capital, Chalco is typical of the so-called "cinturon de Miseria" or "ring of misery" where landless peasants who stream into urban areas in hope of better lives wind up living in row after row of shacks along unpaved streets.

Officials estimate that one million people live in Chalco and another three million more inhabit nearby Nezahualcoyotl, the capital's largest slum. Together, the two communities alone boast more people than Panama.

Residents who talked with reporters Monday spoke of the despair of trying to raise their children on the equivalent of \$100 a month, less than Mexico's legal minimum wage which is just under \$4 a day.

That despair, as the pontiff noted in his homily here, is "written on the faces of many mothers and fathers, anguished because they lack the means to sustain and educate their children."

Pope John Paul Monday urged Catholics not to be seduced by Protestant fundamentalist sects, who have been making significant inroads in Latin America in recent years.

Speaking in the port city of Veracruz on the Gulf of Mexico, the Pope said Latin American Catholics should beware the "proselytising activity of the sects" and see to it that "the ambiguity and confusion they sow is slowed down."

He said Catholics should do this by turning to the traditional tenets of their faith — popular devotions to patron saints, intensified religious education and greater participation in the sacraments.

It was the Pope's second reference Monday to Protestant sects. Earlier he told residents of the slum outside Mexico City to beware of "false shepherds" and "sects and groups who seek to lure you from the true flock."

The Roman Catholic Church in Latin America has been increasingly worried by the significant advance of the fundamentalist Evangelical sects, which have been luring Catholics away in growing numbers.

At their general assembly last year, Mexican bishops expressed concern about the growing activity of some three hundred Evangelical church sects who operate in Latin America. Many of them are based in the United States.

6 months on, Berlin Wall at mercy of tourists' hammers

WEST BERLIN (R) — Six months after the Berlin Wall was thrown open, large chunks of the cold war monument are gone but most of it still stands — to the delight of tourists looking for a piece of history.

"This one I will put on a shelf back home for my children to see one day," said Swedish student Jonas Johansson, 19, one of hundreds of tourists hacking away at the barrier every day. "My children will never see the wall."

East Germany began erecting the frontier around West Berlin, which lies inside East German territory, on Aug. 13, 1961.

To keep their citizens from leaving for the West, East German leaders added a death zone of tripwires, automatic guns, anti-tank barriers and 302 watchtowers to the wall, which stood 160 kilometres long and four metres high.

Even though some of the devices were removed in recent years, the wall still stood as a symbol of unbending Stalinism.

But on Nov. 9 last year it was opened by the East's then-Communist rulers in an effort to appease a pro-democracy revolt, which eventually ousted the Communist Party from power.

East German border guards, who once fired Kalashnikov sub-machine guns at their own people seeking to flee over the barrier, now routinely wave them through at about 30 crossings.

Border guard Joerg Manke, 21, chatting with a reporter through a hole in the battered concrete, said he was working an early shift on Nov. 10 last year.

Told by his superiors that the wall was open, he said he could not believe it. Then he saw East German trabant cars spatter through the Checkpoint Charlie border crossing.

A long-held dream for many became reality and hundreds of people danced on the wall, laughing, singing and crying.

"It happened to have a bangover that morning, but I soon cured it with sparkling wine tossed over

the wall by people on the Western side," said Manke, who has swapped the Kalashnikov for a small pistol worn for personal protection.

Business is brisk at a nearby museum where the history of the wall, including dramatic escapes, is on permanent display.

"We have more visitors now than before the wall was opened," museum spokeswoman Karin Nuthmann said. "We get the East Germans who never had a chance to come here before. Many tourists come because the wall may not be around much longer."

East Germany's new Christian Democratic prime minister, Lothar de Maiziere, has said it will be removed. But it is a costly affair and the fledgling democracy has more pressing matters, such as working out economic details of unification with West Germany.

Attempts had been under way to preserve a section of the wall

behind the former Nazi Luftwaffe Air Force headquarters, which stands intact on East German ground, but souvenir hunters nibbled at it so quickly that it disappeared.

All that is left is a path of sand and rocks.

"My job has become much more pleasant now," said border guard Tilo Knuspe, 20, resting in a green patrol car. "You can relax, talk to people," he said, squinting at the sun.

Nearby, West Berliner Tino Daraske, 53, was hammering away at the graffiti-covered concrete from a ladder, each hit echoing between the dilapidated houses on both sides of the border.

"I have been doing this since the wall was opened," said Daraske, an unemployed welder, who sells Communist memorabilia and pieces of the wall to tourists.

A row of wooden crosses stand next to the old Reichstag parliament building in West Berlin,

erected in memory of the 80 or so people who died trying to flee from the East. But the wall itself, once a backdrop, is no longer there.

In East Berlin, a long stretch along Potsdamer Platz has been replaced by a simple fence. In the middle of the square, near a grass mound covering remnants of Hitler's bunker, workers dig deep in search of stray World War II bombs.

A rock concert is planned for July on the spot, a hub of city life in the 1920s and 1930s but turned by the wall into a no-man's-land. To the left and right of the Brandenburg Gate — a symbol of German unity before the war and of disunity after that until the wall was breached — officials have pulled out graffiti-covered slabs and sold them off to the West.

The gate itself is wrapped in scaffolding, its crowning chariot removed for repairs after being damaged by revellers on New Year's Eve.